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**UN Human Rights Council
Forty fifth Session**

**Interactive dialogue with the Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights on the
report of the Secretary-General**

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

September 30, 2020

Mr. Vice-president,

I am exercising this right of reply in response to the statement that has been made by Armenia.

We are amazed at the audacity of the Armenian delegation to give sermon on protecting of human rights.

Armenia's rant about democracy and human rights is ridiculous. Human rights are massively violated in Armenia. Judges are pressured and blackmailed, journalists, opposition activists and political opponents jailed by despotic regime. Politicians and journalists in Armenia are persecuted for their political beliefs. Last year journalist and politician Mher Yeghiazaryan died in prison following hunger strike.

Human rights defenders are arbitrarily arrested in Armenia. According to the information by the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders on August 10 this year nine environmental activists, including women's rights defender Ms. Zaruhi Hovhannisyan, were arrested during a peaceful gathering in front of the Parliament in Yerevan.

Criminal cases have also been opened against two former presidents of Armenia. Members of parliament despite their immunity are detained. For about 20 years, a military junta was in power in this country.

Mr. Vice-president,

Regime change happened in Armenia two years ago, but fascist ideology of this failed state remains unchanged. The policy of "Azerbaijanophobia" is prevailing in Armenia. Hatred against Azerbaijani people is instilled in the young generation. Recently, Armenia has adopted its aggressive and offensive military doctrine and National Security Strategy. The National Security Strategy contains racist, chauvinistic and "Azerbaijanophobic" ideas.

Moreover, the glorification of Nazism is the state policy of Armenia. Nazi general Garegin Nzhdeh has been turned into "national hero".

Mr. Vice-president,

Azerbaijan is a stable, modern, democratic country. Development of democracy and human rights protection are among top priorities of our government. All fundamental freedoms are fully provided, including freedom of expression, media freedom, freedom of assembly, religious freedoms, as well as development of civil society. Recently broad political dialogue initiative has been launched supported by political parties. The political dialogue which successfully started will help to strengthen our political system and serve the cause of sustainable development of Azerbaijan.

We recommend Armenia, which has shamelessly proclaimed itself a herald of democracy and a champion of human rights, to pay attention to the human rights problems that are pervasive in this country.

Thank you.