



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

**Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of  
the right to freedom of opinion and expression**

**Statement**

**delivered 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**

**July 2, 2021**

Mr. Vice-president,

We would like to draw the Council's attention to killing of two Azerbaijani journalists at yet another deadly landmine explosion in the territories of Azerbaijan liberated from Armenian occupation, while the journalists were on duty.

This mine explosion happened on 4 June, 2021, when a vehicle carrying civilians crossed over the landmine, while moving in the direction of Susuzlug village in the Kalbajar region of Azerbaijan liberated from Armenian occupation. The two journalists were Maharram Ibrahimov, a reporter working for state news agency AzerTag, and Siraj Abishov, a journalist with AzTV Broadcasting company.

Azerbaijan on numerous occasions has expressed alarm at the severe threats emanating from massive contamination of the liberated territories of Azerbaijan with mines and other explosive devices having been planted by Armenia during the occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan and in particular on the eve of the withdrawal of its military from Azerbaijan, and about Armenia's refusal to release information on the minefields in these territories.

Armenia's refusal to hand over maps of minefields continues to cause serious threats to lives and safety of Azerbaijani population. Since the end of hostilities between the two countries, in accordance with the trilateral Statement signed by the leaders of Azerbaijan, Russia and Armenia on November 10, 2020, more than 140 Azerbaijanis became victims of mine explosions, including 20 civilians killed and 29 civilians heavily injured.

Deliberate and large-scale planting of landmines by Armenia in the territories of Azerbaijan is a gross violation of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949, as well as of the rights of the Azerbaijani population, arising from Articles 2 and 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, Article 1 of Protocol No. 1, Articles 2 (1) and 3 (2) of Protocol No. 4. Armenia bears full responsibility for killing the Azerbaijani civilians, including journalists, who were fulfilling their responsibilities to report the truth.

Madame Special Rapporteur,

The recent tragic incident in Kalbajar once again showed the urgency of addressing the issues pertaining to the demining of the liberated territories of Azerbaijan to prevent further loss of innocent lives. The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media among others have already spoken out about the tragic death of Azerbaijani journalists. The Committee to Protect Journalists, the International Federation of Journalists, European Federation of Journalists and other NGOs who are global voices of journalists, have called on the Armenian authorities to hand over the plans of the mined areas, in order to avoid further civilian casualties.

Following our previous appeals on this issue to the High Commissioner for human rights and you, Madame Special Rapporteur, Azerbaijan awaits your reaction to this urgent issue.

I thank you.