



**UN Human Rights Council
46th Session
(22 February – 23 March 2021)**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur Special Rapporteur on minority issues
Statement
delivered by Mr. Shahriyar Hajiyev
Third Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

15 March 2021

Thank you, Madame Vice-President,

We stress the importance of issues specified in the thematic report of the Special Rapporteur, in particular hate speech, social media and minorities.

Madame Vice-President,

We would like to draw attention that the people of Azerbaijan have faced with the results of ethnic hatred pursued by Armenia again in 2020, when the members of the Azerbaijani community abroad was attacked by the radical Armenian groups. The state sponsored hatred by Armenia in the social media, even called for violence and killing of Azerbaijanis wherever possible.

In this regard, we draw attention to the insulting hate-speech post made by Armenian user against the people of Azerbaijan in Facebook, which has been removed after the review of Facebook Oversight Board concerning the case 2020-003-FB-UA. Mr. Fernand de Varennes, Special Rapporteur, in his public comment of 23 December 2020, related to this case, tried to portray the specific insulting word by the Armenian user, not being used against the people of Azerbaijan but for the Government of Azerbaijan. Such an assessment by the Special Rapporteur is not understandable where the people of Azerbaijan was insulted openly, without any reference to the Government, in the post of the Armenian user. The comment of the SR, raises serious questions, thus, we provided a thorough information and registered strong discontent with the SR, Mr. Fernand de Varennes in that regard. The SR has not responded back for his obviously wrong assessment made in his public comment.

In conclusion, we stress the urgent need for taking concrete measures by Armenia to put an end to the deep-rooted racism, xenophobia and wide spread hate speech within the Armenian society against the people of Azerbaijan.

I thank you.