

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
WORKING SESSION 13

Rule of law II, including right to a fair trial, independence of the judiciary, democratic law-making
As delivered by Mr. Davit Knyazyan, Head of the OSCE and Conventional Arms Control
Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

Right to Reply

Ms. Moderator,

There was a reference to the ongoing trial of the members of the armed group, which back in 2016 violently attacked Erebuni Police Station. I would like to recall that the deplorable actions of the armed group led to killing of three policemen and injuring others. The standoff lasted for several weeks with number of police officers and civilians, including medical staff being kept hostage by the armed group.

Some individuals, including Andreas Ghukasyan abused the freedom of peaceful assembly, demonstrated disrespect to the instructions of police and put into danger the participants of the rally. Their activities created obstacles for the police activities aimed at releasing the hostages.

The Police and other law enforcement agencies showed exemplary restraint in handling the situation and resolved it by avoiding any further casualties. Even in the challenging environment which some of our NGO colleagues defined here as armed rebellion the Police generally managed to ensure freedom of assembly, while also protecting rule and order. The responsibility and restraint in the activities of the Police were acknowledged by our international partners.

We are not in position to comment the details of the ongoing trial and interfere into the judicial process. I will limit myself by one remark only: the ongoing trial is taking place in line with the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and its international commitments in the atmosphere of transparency with engagement of civil society and media.

Thank You.