

THE 2017 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
11-22 September 2017
Warsaw, Poland

AYDIN SAFIKHANLI
Head of the Office of the Commissioner
for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Working session 2

**International organizations, NHRIs shouldn't be indifferent to violation
of common norms and principles of international law**

Mr. Moderator
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As it is known universality of human rights is recognized by adopted international documents. As a rule, one of the main commitments of states is to ensure and protect the norms and principles of international law, in general human rights and freedoms. This is also one of the main responsibilities of international community, as well as international organizations.

Respect to human rights and fundamental freedoms is one of the main principles of international law and is the basis of inter-state relations. Moreover, respect to human rights and freedoms is an integral part of international security system.

From this point of view, OSCE as an organization, also OSCE member states shouldn't be indifferent to violation of common norms and principles of international law, human rights and international humanitarian law, shouldn't keep silence, should join efforts for punishing states which committed these violations in order to avoid new violations.

I would like to note that on July 4, 2017, the residential settlements resided densely by civil population in Alkhanli village of Fizuli district and civil facilities were fired in a targeted manner and deliberately with heavy grenade-guns by the Armenian armed forces, as a result of which, an elderly woman Allahverdiyeva Sahiba and her 2 years old granddaughter Guliyeva Zahra were killed, another civilian woman, was seriously injured and civil facilities were destroyed.

As a result of the next provocation committed by the Armenian armed forces on August 7, 2017, with the goal of deliberate destruction of the civilians by firing the Garalar village of Tovuz region bordering with Armenia, 13 years old boy from that village, Yusifov Ramin was hospitalized in a heavy condition by receiving multiple debris injuries.

As seen, Armenia is continuing its rude violation of the requirements of international humanitarian legal norms by intensively firing the the territories of civilians with large-caliber weapons without giving up its aggressive actions.

These recent incidents should be assessed as a next criminal act being the continuation of military aggression, ethnic cleansing and terror acts lasting over 25 years against Azerbaijan resulting with killing of thousands of innocent people by the Armenian armed forces, the grave and mass violation of human rights, and full destruction of historical, religious and cultural monuments belonging to world culture and efficient measures should be taken for punishing those, who commit these crimes in line with international legal norms.

The reliance of impunity environment has led to such an extent that Armenia does not refrain from targeting civilians, particularly children and women by showing disrespect to the norms and principles of international law.

As known, adopting the resolution on the Right to the Truth, Human Rights Council invites Member States, United Nations bodies, intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations to fully implement the demands of this resolution.

The right to the truth is often invoked in the context of gross violations of human rights and grave breaches of humanitarian law. The right to the truth implies knowing the full and complete truth as to the events that transpired, their specific circumstances, and who participated in them, including knowing the circumstances in which the violations took place, as well as the reasons for them.

Azerbaijani Ombudsman as a National Human Rights Institution guiding with the requirements of the respective Resolution of the UN Human Rights Council adopted statements and appeals addressed to world community, respective international organizations and colleagues for putting an end to long lasting Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, murder of civilians, mass violation of human rights.

Armenian direct and intentional attack on Azerbaijani civilians and civil facilities is a violation of international humanitarian law and human rights, particularly Geneva Conventions of 1949, Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international documents.

Within centuries-old history, Azerbaijani culture of tolerant and friendly coexistence, commitment to universal values, peace is shown as an example to the world states. Whereas Armenia with its aggressive policy disrespects these values and shows itself as a source of danger to peace and development not only in Azerbaijan but also in the whole region. Without peace it is impossible either to live, to develop or to ensure development or human rights.

Therefore, believing that the justice and peace will be established soon, these violent crimes committed against humanity will receive their international legal assessment, I call the OSCE, its member states, as well as my colleagues to make decisive efforts and to take actions for restoration of the state borders and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan recognized by UN and for ensuring return of hundred thousand internally displaced persons to their lands.

Thanks for your attention!