

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Working session 17: Refugees and displaced persons
Right of reply by Azerbaijan
Delivered by Mr. Rashad Shirinov
02 October 2014

Mr. Moderator,

We would like to exercise our right of reply with regard to the statement of Armenia.

With regard to the separatist entity mentioned by Armenia we would like to note that the illegality of the separatist entity and its structures, established by the Republic of Armenia on the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, has been repeatedly stated at the international level in the most unambiguous manner. No state in the international community has recognized the separatist entity as independent, not even Armenia, though it exercises effective control over the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and provides indispensable economic, political and military assistance without which that illegal entity could not exist.

The Delegation of Azerbaijan strongly protests against provocative actions and statements of the Armenian side, finds the aggressor's insolent behaviour as obvious manifestation of impunity for its crimes and considers the defiant rhetoric of the Armenian side as having the sole purpose of reinforcing the tragic consequences of its military aggression against Azerbaijan, propagating its illegal results and misleading international community.

The Government of Azerbaijan is not in a position to pass over in silence the massive and forced expulsion of the local Azerbaijani population from their homes by the Armenian forces during the course of war and is determined to continue making strenuous efforts to update the international community about the flagrant violations of the common norms and principles of the international humanitarian law by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia.

The Republic of Azerbaijan is confident that for the purpose of lasting peace, security and stability in the South Caucasus, there is no alternative way than by concerted efforts of the international community to convince the Republic of Armenia to put an end to the occupation of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan and to ensure the inalienable rights of Azerbaijani IDPs to return to their places of permanent residence.

I thank you for your attention.