

AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASININ
ATƏT YANINDA
DAİMI NÜMAYƏNDƏLİYİ



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
TO THE OSCE

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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

The meeting of the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 19-30 September, 2016

Right of reply; Working Session I

Thank you Madame Moderator,

We wish to exercise our right of reply in connection with the statement made by the representative of the Institute of Reporters' Freedom and Safety. His statement contained many accusations, but seriously lacked any grounds or proofs whatsoever.

As an official representative of Azerbaijan I cannot be so irresponsible, therefore I would simply refer to facts on the issues raised by this NGO.

- On participation of political parties in the referendum campaign: the political parties that wished to take part in the campaigning and provided required documents had an opportunity to do so;
- on exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the run-up to the referendum: political parties conducted three big rallies so far and one meeting is scheduled to take place this week-end;
- on the situation with freedom of expression and free media:
 - ✓ There are 5.000 media outlets affiliated with a wide range of political and public bodies or private organizations;
 - ✓ 40 daily and more than 200 weekly and monthly newspapers are being disseminated;
 - ✓ Throughout Azerbaijan 9 country wide, 1 satellite, 14 regional and 14 cable TV channels freely operate;
 - ✓ There are more than 50 information agencies.

In response to the representative of an NGO associated to and actively promoting the illegal separatist regime, I would first of all refer to our statement during the opening session where we once again expressed our principal position on unacceptable practice of admission of NGOs propagating separatist regimes to HDIMs.

Moreover, I take the presence of this NGO here as an insult to our organization, as it undermines the core values and principles of the OSCE.

As for the so-called elections in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, I wish to reiterate that these provocative steps of Armenia are taken with an aim to consolidate the results of the illegal use of force against the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. We appreciate the principal position of the majority of the OSCE participating States condemning these steps of Armenia and demonstrating their solidarity with Azerbaijan in upholding the principles upon which this organization is established.

I thank you, Madame Moderator.