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Statement by the Delegation of Azerbaijan
Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Working Session 12: Rule of Law I
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As delivered by Fidan Mahmudova
Embassy of Azerbaijan to Poland

We remain deeply concerned with continuous violations of human rights of the Azerbaijani civilians Dilgam Askarov and Shahbaz Guliyev, who have been illegally captured in the territories of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenia. These persons are being subject to torture and degrading behavior by the occupying forces, which is evident by the photos released by the Armenian mass media.

Armenia periodically makes different provocations to make the negotiations process eternal. One of these provocations took place in April 2016. Azerbaijani civilians were shelled from the Armenian artillery, nearly 10 civilians, including children, were killed. Armenia's offensive actions also caused casualties and injuries among the servicemen of the armed forces of Azerbaijan. The International Committee of the Red Cross facilitated the handover, between the sides, of the bodies of those killed in action following the escalation in 2016. Subsequently performed forensic medical examination registered numerous signs of post-mortem mutilation of the bodies of Azerbaijani servicemen by the Armenian armed forces. Photos and videos of Azerbaijani servicemen subjected to post-mortal mutilation and other inhumane and degrading behavior by Armenian occupying forces were published in the Armenian social networks, as well as media outlets.

Armenia's direct and deliberate attacks against the Azerbaijani civilian population and civilian objects, as well as inhuman acts against Azerbaijani militaries constitute a serious violation of international humanitarian and human rights law, in particular the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Recently, in July, as a result of targeted and deliberate attacking of civilians by armed forces of Armenia 2 years' old child and grandmother were killed. Continuous provocations and violation of the cease-fire by Armenia is still ongoing. The illegal presence of Armenian armed forces in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan remains a main cause for the escalation of situation.

The Azerbaijani side once again reminds the Armenian side of its obligations under international humanitarian law to respect the rights of civilians during the armed conflicts. We reiterate once again that taking hostages, as well as torture, cruel, inhumane and other degrading behavior against the civilian population of the territories under occupation is prohibited under international humanitarian law.