

**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
exercising its right of reply
27-28 November 2010**

Listening the statement made by Armenian delegation and other institution from Armenia someone might think that Azerbaijan is the aggressor. But, on the contrary aggressor is Armenia that has occupied and wants to annex 20% of Azerbaijan's sovereign territories – including Nakorno Karabakh and seven surrounding regions of Azerbaijan, which is recognized as such by UN, the USA, the Russian Federation and all other members of OSCE and the world, except Armenia itself. At the same time not an inch of Armenian territory has been attacked or sought by Azerbaijan during six years of conflict totally within the territory of secular, multi-ethnic Azerbaijan, which strictly observes the rights of more than 70 ethnic groups – including Russians, Armenians and Jews.

Furthermore, talking about the violation by Azerbaijan of its obligations assumed under international instruments, the Armenian delegation forgets to mention UN Security Council Resolutions №822, 853, 874 and 884 (1993) which demand unconditional and immediate withdrawal of occupying forces from occupied Azerbaijani territories.

Armenia should not overlook that the most telling refutation of its mendacious allegations of Azerbaijan in anti-Armenian propaganda and hate dissemination is undoubtedly the fact that, unlike Armenia, which has purged its territory of all Azerbaijanis and other non-Armenians and became a uniquely mono-ethnic State. Azerbaijan has worldwide recognized record of tolerance and peaceful co-existence of various ethnic and religious groups. This tradition is routed in the country's geographic location at the crossroads between East and West, which created opportunities for the Azerbaijani people to benefit from cultural and religious values of different cultures and religions.

An important circumstance characterizing the situation of minorities in Azerbaijan and the adherence of our State to the principles of democracy and respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms is the fact that, despite the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan and expulsion of all Azerbaijani population from their native lands in Armenia, where they lived long before Armenians for the first time appeared there, today Azerbaijan has about 30,000 Armenians, excluding those in Nagorny Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

The attitude of the Azerbaijanis towards Armenians is predetermined by the continuous massive deportation of Azerbaijanis from their homelands in Armenia and territorial claims to the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in its Resolution 1416 (2005) states that “considerable parts of the territory of Azerbaijan are still occupied by Armenian forces and separatist forces are still in control of the Nagorno-Karabakh region”. Further, the Parliamentary Assembly expresses “its concern that the military action, and the widespread ethnic hostilities which preceded it, led to large-scale ethnic expulsion and the creation of mono-ethnic areas which resemble the terrible concept of ethnic cleansing”.

In this regard, Azerbaijan spared no efforts to draw attention of the international community to the alarming developments around its historical and cultural monuments during the armed conflict with Armenia and subsequent occupation of a part of the Azerbaijani territory.