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STATEMENT

**on violation of the rights of the Ombudsman of
the Republic of Moldova Mrs. Aurelia Grigoriu
in the Republic of Armenia**

Madam Moderator
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As it is known, in July, 2013, the parliamentary advocate (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Moldova Aurelia Grigoriu in her speech at the International Conference held in Armenia's parliament said that Armenia occupied 20% of Azerbaijan lands and committed genocide against Azerbaijanis in Khojaly, after which she faced threats, accusations and pressure for the truth she expressed. The rights of A. Grigoriu were seriously violated and her travel back to Moldova was obstructed.

The case when a person dealing with the protection of human rights, an official representative of a foreign state is facing threats and limitation of rights for sounding the historic facts and truth acknowledged, by the world community and international organizations, in a civilized country, in a parliament - a place commonly accepted as the cradle of free speech, once again proved that Armenia is not a legal and democratic state.

The Republic of Armenia as the member-state of the United Nations, Council of Europe always demonstrates disrespectful behavior towards the resolutions and other documents, adopted by these organizations, as well as to the commitments taken as a party to number of the international agreements.

Pursuant to the article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as the fundamental documents in the area of human rights, everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state and to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country. Moreover, according to the article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, that Armenia has signed up to, everyone lawfully staying within the territory of a state shall, within that territory, have the right to liberty of movement and shall be free to leave any country. One of the substantial requirements of the pact is that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his own country.

As it is obvious, limitation of the right to liberty of movement of A. Grigoriu by the relevant agencies of Armenia, as well as creation of obstacles for her return to own country is a grave violation of the provisions of the aforementioned international legal acts.

At the same time, it is well-known that regardless of place everyone has the right to freedom of expression without fear of being prosecuted and this is one of the most sacred human rights. According to the article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, that Armenia is also a member of, everyone has the right to freedom of expression. Similar provisions are also available in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Interruptions of the speech of A. Grigoriu by the official representatives of Armenia, obvious and open threats against her by the official bodies and the pressure she was exposed to is a grave violation of the European Convention on Human Rights and other international documents.

Having this accident namely these days, when Armenia acts as the chairing country of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, clearly represents the failure of the state of Armenia to follow the globally accepted principles of the international law on respect to the human rights and freedoms and questions the eligibility of this country to chair the Committee of Ministers, one of the main bodies of the Council of Europe, primarily aimed at human rights protection.

As the office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Republic of Azerbaijan we strongly condemn these serious violations of the rights of our Moldovan colleague in Armenia and call on all of the international organizations, including OSCE and our colleagues not to remain indifferent to these shameful actions happened in Armenia against the Ombudsman of Moldova and join us in expressing our deepest concern in this regard.

Thanks for your attention!