

04 October 2019

***Right of reply by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan*****HDIM Working session 8****Warsaw, 20 September 2019****As delivered by Fidan Mahmudova**

In reply to the Delegation of Armenia, Armenia occupied territory of sovereign Azerbaijan, violated its territorial integrity, expelled local Azerbaijani population from the Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts, making more than one million people refugees and IDPs, destroyed everything in the occupied lands, including historical, religious, cultural monuments and all the infrastructure.

It has not become an exception from usual speculations and allegations and clearly demonstrates that this country is far from engaging in the constructive search for peace and conflict resolution in the region. It is curious that the representative of Armenia – a country that bares full responsibility for unleashing the war, perpetrating aggression against Azerbaijan, carrying out ethnic cleansing on a massive scale, committing other heinous crimes, including genocide in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly. In fact, it is Azerbaijan that has more than a million of refugees and IDPs.

With the regard to the intervention by the gentleman who introduces himself as a resident of Switzerland, and who is extremely striving to appear as an expert on all topics of this year's HDIM by taking floor on all sessions and speaking off-topic, my Delegation would recommend to obtain more precise information of today's reality in Azerbaijan in order not to mislead the audience here.

Furthermore, we call on to take necessary measures towards this gentleman, since contrary to the set regulations, he was filming yesterday's session and the video was posted on social networks with a comments that the Point of Order raised by the Delegation of Canada was directly address to my Delegation, whereas this was not the case at all. By doing so, he is not only distorting what actually took place on the ground, but also takes an attempt to interfere to relations between countries.

As a tradition, this gentleman was speaking off-topic on this session too, and since specific cases that he mentioned had been addressed by my Delegation during previous sessions, we will not repeat it again.