

**OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING****Warsaw, 23 September – 4 October 2013**

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**Tuesday, 24 September 2013****Working session 2****Tolerance and non-discrimination****Republic of Armenia****Statement in the Exercise of the Rights of Reply to the Republic of Azerbaijan**

In reply to Azerbaijani representative we would like to refer to some historical facts. Nagorno-Karabakh conflict began in 1988, when in response to the self-determination claims of NK population the Azeri authorities organized massacres and ethnic cleansing of the Armenian population on the entire territory of Azerbaijan, particularly in Sumgait, Baku and Kirovabad.

On December 10, 1991 NK population declared the establishment of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic (NKR) by plebiscite, which fully complies with both international law norms and the letter and spirit of the USSR laws of that time. Thus, on the territory of the former Azerbaijani SSR two equal state formations were created – Nagorno Karabakh Republic and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In Nagorno –Karabakh and surrounding areas populated by Armenians the policy pursued by Azerbaijani authorities turned into aggression and large scale military actions against the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, which resulted in tens of thousands deads and caused considerable material damage.

Because of war Azerbaijan occupied the whole region of Shahumyan, and the eastern parts of Martakert and Martuni regions of Nagorno Karabakh. Neighboring districts went under the control of Nagorno Karabakh armed forces, which played a role of a security buffer to block the further firing from the Azeri side towards Nagorno-Karabakh settlements.

In May, 1994 Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia signed a ceasefire, which, despite violations, is still effective.