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Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Opening Statement

Working Session 9

Rule of law II

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As delivered by

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Mr. Moderator,

The right to be free from torture and other ill-treatment is a basic human right full implementation of which requires good will, systematic work and international cooperation. Armenia acceded to the OPCAT and closely cooperates with the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture.

Yet, breaches of the CAT and OPCAT obligations unfortunately still persist in the OSCE area.

We are deeply concerned by continued cases of torture and extrajudicial killings committed by Azerbaijani armed forces and subversive groups particularly at the April large scale offensive of Azerbaijan along line of contact in Nagorno-Karabakh.

These atrocities were inflicted upon both civilians and militaries. In the borderline Talish settlement an entire family of three elderly persons including Ms Marusya Khalapyan were tortured, killed and their bodies mutilated.

Azerbaijani armed forces resorted to the open and blatant violations of Geneva Convention in killings prisoners of war and mutilating bodies already deceased servicemen. It should be mentioned that 22 forensic examinations have been conducted to determine the scale of those atrocities. It was found that servicemen Kyaram Sloyan and Hrant Gharibyan were beheaded after their murder. Another serviceman Hayk Toroyan was beheaded and his wrists were cut off when he was still alive. Photos and videos were circulated in Azerbaijani social networks, in which Azerbaijani army soldiers were posing with severed heads of Karabakhi soldiers and demonstrating them to residents of Azerbaijani settlements. Bodies of another two dozen soldiers of the NKR Defense Army, who were killed during the April offensive of Azerbaijani army, were subjected to various types of mutilation and desecration.

We strongly condemn these inhuman actions. We would like to remind the Azerbaijani side that systematic application of torture in conflict environment may amount to crimes against humanity

As far as degrading treatment of the Armenian prisoners of war is concerned, the torture and degrading treatment of one prisoner of war, namely Hakob Injighuilyan is well documented by Azerbaijani side itself who filmed the interrogation and this coverage was found during the arrest of Azerbaijani subversive and criminal group of Hasan Hasanov, Shahbaz Guliyev, Dilham Askerov whose pictures were portrated here by Azerbaijani GONGOs as so called Azerbaijani political prisoners.

In July 2014 this subversive group abducted and killed Smbat Tsakanyan, 17 years old teenager, wounded a woman and killed a serviceman of the NK Defence army. Currently convicted Shabaz Guliev and Dilham Askerov serve the justice.

Impunity should not prevail particularly in the circumstances of atrocities, identity based crimes and their glorification.

Thank you