

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
WORKING SESSION 2
Freedom of the media

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As delivered by

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Ms. Moderator,

We would like to thank Mr. Harlem Desire, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and Mr. Mathew Caruana Galizia for their informative presentations and very important insights into the state of media in the OSCE area and serious challenges which journalist and media workers face in their professional activities.

At the outset, my delegation would like to pay tribute to all journalists and particularly Daphne Caruana Galizia who showed personal courage, dedication and professionalism in reporting to the public sensitive issues including on international corruption networks. They were fighting for their and our right to know the truth and it is now our duty to seek the truth for them. We also keep in mind the case of Hrant Dink and relevant verdict of the European Court of Human Rights, which recognized liability of the state in failing to protect journalists.

Ms. Moderator,

Freedom of expression had been an important pillar of promotion of human rights, civil liberties and democracy in Armenia.

Mass media played crucial role in democratic in Armenia this April-May. It should be noted that mass protest was covered by number of journalists and other media actors from their beginning. No any restriction on information flows and media activities were imposed. Internet which had never been restricted in Armenia continued to be available throughout the country and ensured online broadcasting of mass protest and actions.

It should be also noted that there were some attempts to obstruct the work of journalists which in few cases turned into violent behaviour. Taking into account the large scale of mass protest and actions both in terms of their wide geography and huge number of people involved these

cases were exception rather than pattern of events. Nevertheless, the law enforcement agency launched investigation on each and every incident. As a result, certain journalists and media workers were recognized as victims and some criminal cases have already been submitted to the courts.

As Armenia embarks on new stage of development of human rights, good governance and democracy freedom of media will continue to play important role in ensuring free flow of information for all, transparency and accountability of the Government and the fight against corruption.

Armenia will strongly rely on the expertise of the OSCE Representative of the freedom of media in strengthening freedom of media.

Thank you.