

Right of reply by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

ENGLISH only

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Mr Chairman,

My delegation has taken note of the remarks made by the Norwegian Helsinki Committee and in reply this delegation wishes to express its full disagreement with evaluation of pre-election situation in Azerbaijan. In our statement we have tried to highlight this issue and we believe that remarks of the Norwegian Helsinki Committee are based on incomplete information or on the simply biased approach. Attempts to link the cases of Eynulla Fatullayev, Adnan Hacizade and Emin Abdullayev with elections have no justified ground.

With regard to the case of Eynulla Fatullayev let me say that the Azerbaijani authorities made appeal to the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights and this appeal is still under procedure of consideration.

With regard to the cases of Adnan Hacizade and Emin Abdullayev I wish to remind you that these persons were arrested on the criminal charges in a result of hooliganism incident and their cases has no relation to their public activities as it is claimed. We believe these cases should be approached in legal-judicial and not politicized way.

As for elections matters as freedom of association, media coverage and equal opportunities for candidates the Azerbaijani authorities are making their best to address them inter alia through discussion and co-operation activities with the OSCE Baku Office and other related institutions.

Thank you.