

OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Warsaw, 23 September – 4 October 2013

Thursday, 26 September 2013

Working session 6

Freedom of religion or belief

Republic of Armenia

Statement in the Exercise of the Rights of Reply to the Azerbaijani NGO Turam

Unfortunately, Azerbaijani civil society is largely executing Government's political orders and commands by directly engaging into anti-Armenian propaganda, while the Azerbaijani state distributes special grants for so-called "dissemination of truth about Azerbaijan" and other related activities. At the instigation of the Government, spiritual leaders of Azerbaijan are also involved in anti-Armenian campaign, despite that under their status they should reconcile and not breed strife.

In 2005, the Azeri soldiers by the direct command of the Government and in blatant violation of internationally assumed obligations demolished the medieval cemetery of Julfa (in the present-day Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan/Azerbaijan).

Thousands of Armenian medieval cross-stones (khachkars), each one of them being unique, were demolished by Azerbaijani Army in a deliberate attempt to erase Armenian traces and memories from this sacred Armenian historical site.