

Reply by the Delegation of Azerbaijan Republic

Working Session 1 – Freedom of Media

October 7, 2010

We have taken notes of the remarks made by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, respective delegations and one NGO.

Regarding the murder of Elmar Huseynov, the editor-in-chief of the magazine “Monitor”, I wish to say that this killing had saddened everyone in Azerbaijan. The perpetrators of this outrageous crime have been identified in the result of the investigation. Unfortunately, those two suspects are still at large. They are the citizens of Georgia and therefore the General Prosecutor’s office of Azerbaijan is closely cooperating with the relevant authorities of Georgia. Persons who ordered the murder have not yet been identified, but the investigations are underway and the case is not closed.

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

As regards the case of Eynulla Fatullayev, Azerbaijan has appealed to the Grand Chamber from the decision of the European Court of Human Rights and currently we are waiting for latter’s response.

Finally, I would like to say that there were no cases of disappearances of journalists in my country. A couple of attacks occurred during the last 20 years were in no way related to the professional activities of journalists, but rather to their personal relationships. As regards “*the decriminalization of journalists*”, we are currently studying the international practice.