



**Statement
In Reply to Azerbaijan
delivered by Mr. Vahe Gevorgyan, Deputy Permanent Representative of Armenia at the
1193rd Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
July 19, 2018**

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Mr. Chairman,

ENGLISH only

We took note of that the events whereof Armenia is unjustifiably accused took place four years ago and thus its appearance as a current issue particularly under this title is misleading.

Last time Azerbaijani delegation raised this issue at the level of the Permanent Council in January 2017, I am pleased to read out the following response provided by my delegation, and I quote:

“In regard to the statement of the Azerbaijani delegation we would like to refer to the several Notes Verbale of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nagorno-Karabakh and statements of my delegation in regard to citizens of Azerbaijan Shahbaz Guliyev and Dilham Askerov, distributed in the OSCE. These persons and another citizen of Azerbaijan Hasan Hasanov committed a number of crimes against citizens of NK in July 2014, namely killing of a teenager Smbat Tsakanian, Mr. Sargis Abrahamyan and gravely wounding Ms. Karine Davtyan.

As a sign of good will the NK provided exhaustive information on the trial of Shahbaz Guliyev and Dilham Askerov. Currently these persons serve their sentence. The Office of the International Committee of Red Cross in Stepanakert has regular access to them. They receive human treatment, their healthcare is ensured by NK medical staff and they enjoy regular communication with their families.

If Azerbaijani side has particular concerns in this regard it may contact the NK authorities or NK Ombudsman” end of quote.

At this stage, we would like to add only two points.

First, NK authorities have all reasonable grounds to doubt that upon the transfer of Shahbaz Guliev and Dilham Askerov, they will be pardoned and glorified in Azerbaijan. The pardon and glorification of Ramil Safarov who was convicted murder is a case in point. It should be recalled

that it is not our delegation but the President of Azerbaijan himself first established parallel between those two cases.

Second, regardless of the status of the territory all people have the same human rights including right to life and right to effective remedies. Release of Shahbaz Guliev and Dilham Askerov will violate these rights and will further promote impunity for the violent actions directed against people residing in conflict areas.

Finally, we regret that Azerbaijan comes up with usual accusatory language against Armenia one week after the Ministerial Meeting in Brussels.

Thank you.