



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
TO THE OSCE

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STATEMENT

**on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
delivered by Ambassador Andranik Hovhannisyan
at the 1571st meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**

2 July 2026

Mr. Chair,

We would like to express our appreciation to the delegation of Denmark for raising this current issue and for once again underscoring the imperative of preventing torture and supporting its victims.

The prohibition of torture is enshrined in numerous international and regional legal instruments. It is universally binding, as customary international law recognizes the prohibition of torture as a *jus cogens* norm from which no derogation is permitted under any circumstances.

Guided by its Constitution and international legal obligations, Armenia has undertaken significant reforms to strengthen the institutional and legal framework for the prevention of and the fight against torture. In Armenia, effective safeguards, including independent oversight of places of detention, prompt, impartial and effective investigations into all allegations of torture, accountability for perpetrators, and access to rehabilitation and effective remedies for victims, are not optional measures but legal obligations that give practical effect to the absolute prohibition of torture.

In 2023, the Ministry of Internal Affairs was established as a civilian oversight body for the police, providing additional guarantees for the independence of disciplinary proceedings. Extensive use of video surveillance has been introduced in police operations to strengthen transparency and accountability. A Unified Electronic Whistle-Blowing Platform has also been established in penitentiary institutions to facilitate secure reporting by persons deprived of their liberty.

The Human Rights Defender of Armenia has been designated as the National Preventive Mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and plays a central role in monitoring compliance with human rights and fundamental freedoms by public authorities and officials.

An important contribution to independent oversight is also made by the Group of Public Observers, which actively promotes transparency and accountability within the penitentiary system.

Mr. Chair,

We recall that the prohibition of torture applies with full force in situations of armed conflict and extends to all persons detained in connection with hostilities. The treatment of detainees, the conditions of their detention, respect for their dignity and physical integrity, as well as the guarantee

of a fair trial must be ensured in accordance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Armenia underscores the obligation to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, to investigate all credible allegations thereof and to grant unimpeded access to detainees for relevant international mechanisms, including the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Mr. Chair,

Armenia reaffirms its commitment to contributing to global efforts aimed at strengthening international cooperation to prevent torture, ensure accountability for perpetrators, provide effective remedies for victims, and end impunity.

Thank you.