

Working Session14 (specifically selected topic) Hate crime

Right of reply by Ms. Lilit Grigoryan, Head of the OSCE and Conventional Arms Control Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia

Madame Moderator,

**In response to the Azerbaijani Gongo**

Garegin Nzhdeh is the national hero of Armenia, whose resistance movement in Armenian province of Zangezur back in the beginning of 20th century saved the Armenian population of Zangezur from massacres by Azerbaijani forces. While Azerbaijan's national hero is Ramil Safarov.

Talaat was a murderer of an entire nation, something that was recognized by Ottoman court as well. The crime of Talaat was so massive and atrocious that court in Berlin acquitted Soghomon Tehlirian. The justice which could not escape Talaat inspired Raphael Lemkin to study Genocides and criminalize it. So Tehlirian truly deserved to be remembered.

In response to the statement of the Azerbaijani Delegation just to measure the level of tolerance towards Armenian cultural heritage I would like to emphasize that Azerbaijan annihilated thousands of medieval Armenian cross-stones and destructed a 7th century Armenian church in Nakhichevan in order to wipe out anything Armenian from the areas where Armenians constituted majority just decades ago.

In response to Azerbaijani Delegation's Right of reply, we took note that the Azerbaijani delegation did not reject the killing of an Armenian officer and we understand why. The remarks were very illustrative and come as a clear manifestation of justification of killings of Armenians and glorification of hate crime perpetrated by Safarov.

Thank you.