



ԵԱՀԿ ՌԻՄ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՄՇՏԱԿԱՆ ՆԵՐԿԱՅԱՑՈՒՑՉՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

Right of Reply
by the Delegation of Armenia
in response to the Delegation of Azerbaijan
at the 1403rd special meeting of the Permanent Council

Mr Chairman,

I will not waste my time in responding to the worn out lies and manipulative narratives invented by Azerbaijan. I will not do that because we have already done that at the previous meeting of the Permanent Council and also because the situation is abundantly clear – Azerbaijan has closed the only lifeline, effectively blocking the access of the people of Nagorno Karabakh to essential goods and services. The situation is dire with a looming humanitarian disaster. This is another clear manifestation of hatred, ethnic cleansing and genocidal intent and it should be named so. This should serve as an early warning signal /not sure whether the word early is appropriate here anymore/ for the international community in general and the OSCE in particular.

Time and again we did not hear any plausible argument in support of the belligerent actions of Azerbaijan and because of obvious reasons it is quite difficult to invent any, even with such a vast imagination that the Azerbaijani officials usually have on such occasions. Azerbaijan is wasting the precious time by denying the undeniable and justifying the unjustifiable.

The only effect of those clumsy justifications and explanations was that it reminded me the story of a culprit, an indicted person who was on trial on the charges of premediated murder of his parents and who asked the court to take into account an extenuating circumstance that he is an orphan.

Azerbaijan has its own truth and values which are different from the rest of the world or better to say from that of the civilized part. Moreover, it has its own world history and perhaps even its own geography. I am sure there is a scientific explanation to such a state of mind.

But the discussions that took place during the emergency meeting of the UN Security Council on 20 December 2022 clearly demonstrated the unanimous stance of the

international community. I very much hope that eventually Azerbaijan will come to its senses and the common sense will start prevailing in Azerbaijan. But for that to happen the international community should exert all the necessary pressure, including imposing sanctions on the masterminds of this inhumane act.

Mr Chairman,

In closing, and on a personal note, I would like to note that, most probably this is my last PC meeting, and I want to say that it was a great honour to represent my country and defend the rights of my people to the best of my abilities. Notwithstanding, the support of colleagues and partner countries for which I am grateful, I have to say that I often felt indifference in this very hall and felt the loneliness of my people in the face of looming existential threats and this was the most frustrating experience during my tenure. I wish I am wrong.

I very much understand that even the compelling emotions and expressions of empathy cannot prevail over the economic and political interests or the instructions from your capitals, however I would like to once again remind that it is all about human beings, regardless of their race, ethnicity or the status of the territory they live in. Today, children of Nagorno Karabakh are deprived of simple and small things that usually make them happy - to be with their parents and relatives on the eve of Christmas. And this is not about being pathetic, this is about the sad realities in my homeland.

I thank you.