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Statement
at the 794th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
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ENGLISH only

Mr. Chairman,

The Delegation of Azerbaijan has numerously informed the distinguished audience of OSCE Permanent Council on this specific case and our very recent statement on this matter was delivered at the 792nd meeting of the Permanent Council which was held on January 28, 2010.

In this regard, I would like to reiterate our request to all delegations not to politicize this issue and wait for the official results of the investigation by law-enforcement bodies. With this in mind, we believe that it is too premature to raise this issue until the investigation is over.

When it comes to the freedom of media in Azerbaijan, which was raised in the statement, this is a field where the Azerbaijani Government makes its utmost efforts. At present, there are more than 3500 mass media outlets in our country, including 30 information agencies and 44 electronic mass media outlets. There are also 7 country-wide and 14 regional TV channels, 12 cable and 11 radio stations operating in the country. All conditions have been created for media outlets free and independent functioning. During the last years, internet traffic has been increased in Azerbaijan, while the tariffs were reduced significantly. At present, satellite dishes and cable TVs are widely used, thus increasing public access to information throughout the country. The State Support Fund for the Development of Media has become fully operational and contributes to the improvement of overall situation in the country.

At the end, let me once again to underline that the Republic of Azerbaijan fulfils all its commitments within the international law and expects full understanding and respect from the international community and our partners in this regard.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.