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ENGLISH only

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PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF
ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

Statement

**in exercise of the right of reply to the delegation of Azerbaijan
as delivered by Ms. Lilit Grigoryan, Deputy Head of Mission
the Delegation of Armenia
at the 1459th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council, agenda item 3**

01 February 2024

We firmly reject the usual ungrounded accusations voiced by Azerbaijan. We are not here to address emotions, but the facts.

It is a fact that the people of Nagorno-Karabakh have suffered under Azerbaijan's ten-month-long illegal blockade.

It is a fact that on February 22 and July 6, 2023, the International Court of Justice adopted legally binding orders and urged Azerbaijan to open the Lachin Corridor, while Azerbaijan ignored those legally binding orders.

It is a fact that the people of Nagorno-Karabakh were subjected to yet another large-scale military offensive by Azerbaijan on September 19, 2023, which resulted in the mass forced displacement of the indigenous population.

It is a fact that today Nagorno-Karabakh is ethnically cleansed.

Madame Chair,

The delegation of Azerbaijan conveniently failed to mention their collaboration and association with Nazism and we would invite the delegation of Azerbaijan to inform the Permanent Council about this issue. For instance, it is worth mentioning Khosrov bey Sultanov, who, during World War II, actively participated in the formation of the Azerbaijani legion in the ranks of the Nazi troops. Also, it is important to recall a Nazi collaborator, Mahammad Amin Rasulzade, who is considered a national hero in Azerbaijan today. His statues can be found aplenty in Azerbaijan, and streets are named after him.

Moreover, recently, the President of Azerbaijan signed a decree to organize celebrations on the 140th birthday anniversary of Nazi collaborator Rasulzade.

And finally, to put the record straight with regards to the disinformation about Garegin Nzdeh in the statement of the delegation of Azerbaijan, let me emphasise that Garegin Nzdeh was the commander of the forces of the First Republic of Armenia who organised the self-defence in the Armenian Syunik province against the advancing Red Army. And largely thanks to his efforts, the Armenian population of Syunik didn't face the same fate and destiny as the Armenian population of Nakhijevan, which was subjected to atrocities and ethnic cleansing by Azerbaijan and their collaborators.

Thank you.