

Working Session15 (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,

I would like to exercise my right of reply in response to the statement made by the delegation of Azerbaijan.

We heard the justification of the Armenian Genocide by Azerbaijan. This creates serious existential threat for the people of Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenia will prevent any attempts to perpetrate genocide against Armenian population of NK by Azerbaijan. By such statements Azerbaijan justifies absolute need to sustain existing security arrangements in Nagorno Karabkh.

The events in Khojaly, which led to unfortunate deaths of civilians, were the results of political intrigues and struggle for power in Azerbaijan.

The true reasons of Khojaly are revealed in the accounts of Azerbaijanis themselves. Then the President of Azerbaijan Ayaz Mutalibov stated that the assault on Khojaly was not a surprise attack, he emphasized that a corridor was kept open by the Armenians for people to leave but civilians were fired by armed units of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan. Mutalibov linked this criminal act to attempts by the opposition to remove him from power.

As far as the claims of the Azeri representative are concerned regarding 30.000 Armenians currently leaving in Azerbaijan let me note that ECRI report based on the official census carried out in 2009 in Azerbaijan, stated that only 700 people identified themselves as Armenians. Therefore, we encourage the Azerbaijani delegation to check their statements with the view to avoid contradiction with their own official data.

ECRI report also expressed a concern that an entire generation of Azerbaijanis has now grown up listening constant rhetoric of Armenians being number one enemy of Azerbaijan. As a result, the Armenians living in the country need to hide their ethnic affiliation.

Thank you.