

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

16 September, 2019 WS 1

Gulsel Safarova

**Leading Advisor at Department of public-political Issues of Presidential
Administration of AR**

Working Session 4

Safety of journalists is the very essential point in providing freedom of media and expression taking into consideration international law as well as national law.

But unfortunately, Freedom of expression and the safety of journalists are facing major challenges in Europe today. In many countries, journalists and other media actors are facing threats job insecurity, cheating, and abusive use of defamation laws. Especially journalists for their safety have to be aware of laws when are intended to travel an uncontrolled area as well as occupied territories. International law does not work in territories not recognized by the international community. In this case, Journalists must act in accordance with international and national law.

Taking account all of this, I would like to emphasize unauthorized visits to Nagorno-Karabakh and 7 regions of Azerbaijani territory occupied by Armenia are considered illegal, unsafety for journalists where controlled by separatist regime. As all member here get already informed and did not recognized that so called separatist regime, Azerbaijan pay special attention to the illegal activity in the occupied areas of the country. Baku has repeatedly warned journalists, foreign officials and diplomats of illegally visits that are occupied by Armenia, calling them contradictory to international law as well as democratic values. We based on the principles of Azerbaijan's law and freedom of the press; respect the journalist's professional activities. Therefore, without allowance Azerbaijani government any journalists' visits to uncontrolled-occupied territory are threat of unsafety.