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DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

ENGLISH only

Statement

**On Detention of an Armenian Citizen Zaven Karapetyan by Azerbaijan
delivered by Permanent Delegation of Armenia at the 1150th Meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council**

June 22, 2017

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council on the detention of the citizen of Armenia by Azerbaijan who appears to be Zaven Karapetyan born in 1974 and registered in the shelter for homeless and elderly in Vanadzor city of Armenia.

On June 21, 2017 the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan claimed that Zaven Karapetyan within an Armenian military unit took part in a subversive action against Azerbaijan. Later on there was video containing images of his interrogation.

The Ministry of Defence of Armenia denied any claim of subversive actions undertaken by Armenia on Armenia-Azerbaijan border and involvement of Zaven Karapetyan with armed forces of Armenia. According to Police of Armenia Zaven Karapetyan has never been recruited in the army due to mental illness. Zaven Karapetyan has been homeless and took up occasion work of pasturing cattle.

We don't know under which circumstances Zaven Karapetyan appeared in the borderline Kemerli village of Azerbaijan but according to reports of Azerbaijani villagers he was calm and did not commit any act of violence.

We would like to recall that last year in June an Azerbaijani woman Hatiba Alakbarova a 39-year-old resident of Arabachi village of Azerbaijan's Gadabay region who according to Azerbaijani side was registered in the Gazakh interregional psychiatric hospital crossed the border with Armenia. In three days Armenia through ICRC returned the citizen of Azerbaijan.

We call on Azerbaijani side to show similar respect to international humanitarian and human rights law and return Zaven Karapetyan to Armenia without causing any harm to him.

Thank You.