

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Opening Statement

Working Session 5

Tolerance and non-discrimination I, including prevention of violence against women and children

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As delivered by

Mr. Vaheh Gevorgyan, Head of the OSCE and Conventional Arms Control Division, Arms Control and International Security Department, MFA of Armenia

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to thank panelists for their informative and substantive presentations. Since the main focus of this session is peace, women and security, I would like to start by presenting two recommendations.

-Women residing in conflict areas should be involved in confidence building measures.

-Participating states should refrain from persecuting women for taking part in confidence building measures.

Unfortunately, confidence building measures became dangerous activities for women in some participating states.

Ms. Leyla Yunus, a prominent human rights defender, who was engaged in the international peace building projects, had been arrested and tried in Azerbaijan under the absurd allegations of espionage activities.

This egregious treatment of a woman seeking peace and human rights indicates that Azerbaijan violates not only OSCE commitments but UN SC resolution 1325.

Along with silencing voices of peace and reconciliation, Azerbaijan violates ceasefire targeting indiscriminately civilian infrastructures of the borderline territory of Armenia including schools and kindergartens.

Armenia agreed with the proposal to establish investigative mechanism into ceasefire violations that would stop both unverified ceasefire violations and blame game. However, Azerbaijan rejected this proposal which clearly indicates that as in case of serious human rights violations under its jurisdiction in the conflict situation as well Azerbaijan prefers to be a part of the problem than solution.

Thank you