



Asamblea General

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Consejo de Derechos Humanos

18º período de sesiones

Tema 4 de la agenda

Situaciones de derechos humanos que requieren la atención del Consejo

Nota verbal de fecha 8 de agosto de 2011 dirigida a la Presidenta del Consejo de Derechos Humanos por la Misión Permanente de Armenia ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas y otras organizaciones internacionales en Ginebra

Le agradecería enormemente que tuviera a bien distribuir la presente nota y su anexo* como documento del 18º período de sesiones en relación con el tema 4 de la agenda.

(Firmado) Charles Aznavour

* Se distribuye tal como se recibió, únicamente en el idioma en que fue presentado.

Anexo

I would like to refer to the Note verbale dated 10 June, 2011(A/HRC/17/G/11) and to the Letter dated 22 July, 2011 (212/11/L) from the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva.

The Republic of Armenia had no intention to be involved into senseless correspondence with regard to Azerbaijan's groundless accusations and propagandistic statements. However, taking into consideration the fact that Azerbaijan continues to speculate children's life and death with obvious impertinence, we would like one last time to make following comments.

The mentioned documents are one another perfect illustration of Azerbaijani policy of shameless distortion of facts and propaganda against the Republic of Armenia. Spreading completely absurd accusations against Armenia, Azerbaijan tries to convince international community, that its distorted vision of reality is the reality itself. It's obvious, that there is only one truth existing for the leadership of Azerbaijan, created by Azerbaijani propaganda makers, which has nothing to do with the facts on the ground. Azerbaijani leadership doesn't tolerate any opinion, different from this "truth", regardless the source of this opinion – whether it comes from international community, neighbouring country or its own citizens. One of numerous evidences of this is the fact, that Azerbaijani authorities in 2007 jailed its own citizen Eynulla Fatullayev, which was convicted of defamation after writing a series of newspaper articles, critical of the authorities and presenting independent view to the mass killings of Azerbaijani civilians in the town of Khojaly, during the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. Even the welcoming of the recent release of Azerbaijani journalist during 17th session of the Human Rights Council led to an inadequate reaction of Azerbaijani delegation.

Unilaterally and groundless declaring Armenia guilty and responsible by mentioned documents, the Azerbaijani authorities first should have enough courage to assume the responsibility of organized massacres of own population of Armenian origin in Baku, Sumgait and Kirovabad, as well as responsibility of unleashing the military aggression against peaceful Armenian population of Nagorno Karabakh in response of its legal expression of the right of self determination, according of the Law of that period of time.

Contrary to the numerous calls of Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group, resolutions, memorandums and statements, signed and sounded in many international organisations, urging to avoid tough rhetoric, to prepare the population of both countries to truce - contrary to all that the brainwashing machine of Azerbaijani propaganda injects hate and intolerance towards Armenia in the mind of its citizens, flagrant violating their right to know the truth. This policy will bring a negotiation process to a deadlock, finally breaking fragile hope to find a resolution of the conflict.

The above mentioned documents of Azerbaijani Permanent Mission should serve as ideal examples of a hate speech and propaganda of racism. Regarding such behavior of Azerbaijan the deep concern has been expressed by well known human rights organizations and first of all watchdogs monitoring implementation by Azerbaijan of its obligations assumed in the field of human rights, in particular, in May 2011 The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) published a new report on Azerbaijan, which particularly notes: "The constant negative official and media discourse concerning the Republic of Armenia helps to sustain a negative climate of opinion regarding people of

Armenian origin, who remain vulnerable to discrimination”. We also share the Commissions’ concern and would like to highlight some of its recommendations:

“ECRI urges the authorities to work actively to improve the climate of opinion concerning Armenians coming under Azerbaijan's jurisdiction. ECRI urges the Azerbaijani authorities to work actively to improve the climate of opinion concerning Armenians coming under Azerbaijan's jurisdiction. It underlines that all the political parties must take a firm stance against all forms of racism, discrimination and xenophobia and convey a clear political message in favour of diversity and pluralism; they must also avoid addressing issues of relevance to the Armenians in a negative light”.

In the past such hate propaganda had results in the brutal slaughter of Guren Margaryan, an Armenian officer attending a NATO Partnership-for-Peace program. He was hacked to death in his sleep with an axe by a fellow participant from Azerbaijan Ramil Safarov, but the reaction to this racist murder in Azerbaijan was even more shocking as he was venerated as a hero in the Azerbaijani society.*

The reason that Armenian side has been involved in this mutual blaming-letter-writhing company is, that loss of a human life, and especially the life of a child, regardless of nationality and citizenship, perceived very sensitively in Armenia. Striking confirmation of this is that the President of Armenia Mr. Serzh Sargsyan reacted to the appeal by the Vice-Speaker of the Azeri Milli Mejlis Mrs. Bahar Muradova on the tragic case of Azeri boy's death. Rejecting the accusations of Armenian side in this case, President Sargsyan called to transform the social atmosphere in Azerbaidjan, leading to destruction, to reject mechanisms nourishing it, to remake the environment that gives birth to violence bringing about irretrievable losses of young men, an environment where a child's life may undergo speculations with suspicious stories serving the mere primitive goal of stigmatizing the whole nation.

With regard to recent death of Azeri girl, groundless and imaginary allegations contained in the Letter of Azerbaijan's Permanent Representative, regardless of their absurdity, serves a part of propagandistic war launched through excessive falsification and forgery.

It is unethical to circulate such defamatory information exploiting again s life of innocent child as a propaganda tool. Azerbaijan, which continues to refuse to take an honest look at itself, should be reminded that, as a result of aggression and war launched against Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia during the 1991-1994 period, Azerbaijan heavily contaminated the bordering regions with Armenia and other conflict affected areas with landmines, cluster munitions and other explosives. These extremely dangerous remnants of war continue to have a profound impact on socio-economic growth and on day-to-day lives of the Nagorno Karabakh population, resulting on one of the highest per capita human accident rates in the world.

Today Azerbaijan continues to seriously obstruct the work of the respected mine clearance HALO Trust clarity that is carrying an important humanitarian mission in the region labelling that mission as “unlawful activities”.

The fact that the independent investigation has not been conducted and Azerbaijan avoided from establishing any investigative mechanism into cease-fire violations clearly demonstrate who stands behind these violations and false accusations.

We reiterate that Armenian side have no intention to continue this fruitless campaign of mutual blames, accusations and hateful statements. It is unacceptable to make a child's life an instrument of political pressure and propaganda.

We hope that the leadership of Azerbaijan will finally come to this too.

Charles Aznavour

* Elmira Suleymanova, the Ombudsman of Azerbaijan, stated: "R.Safarov must become an example of patriotism for the Azerbaijani youth". (Source: "Zerkalo", 28 February, 2004).

Agshin Mehdiyev, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the Council of Europe stated that he "does not advise Armenians to sleep safety until the Karabakh conflict is settled. Incidents like in Budapest cannot be ruled out". (Source: Zerkalo, 23 February, 2004).

An Azerbaijani businessman Nadir Aliyev established a special fund for Safarov.

Siyavush Novruzov, ruling "Yeni Azerbaijan" party: "If the conflict is not solved in the near future, then the incidents similar to the one happened in Budapest may happen everywhere where there are Armenians and Azerbaijanis, including the Council of Europe". (Source: "Zerkalo", 27 February, 2004).

The young members of the Azerbaijani terrorist "Organization for Liberation of Karabakh" marched in the downtown Baku holding banners with the words "Well done Ramil".

Over 50 Azerbaijani government-sponsored NGO's organized a "Committee for the Defense of Ramil Safarov". One of the members of this committee unfortunately suggested to name new-born babies after him.
