



# Asamblea General

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## Consejo de Derechos Humanos

33<sup>er</sup> período de sesiones

Temas 3, 4 y 9 de la agenda

**Promoción y protección de todos los derechos humanos, civiles, políticos, económicos, sociales y culturales, incluido el derecho al desarrollo**

**Situaciones de derechos humanos que requieren la atención del Consejo**

**Racismo, discriminación racial, xenofobia y formas conexas de intolerancia, seguimiento y aplicación de la Declaración y el Programa de Acción de Durban**

## **Nota verbal de fecha 30 de septiembre de 2016 dirigida a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos por la Misión Permanente de la República de Armenia ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra**

La Misión Permanente de la República de Armenia ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas y otras organizaciones internacionales en Ginebra saluda atentamente a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos y tiene el honor de transmitirle adjunta una copia de la carta dirigida al Alto Comisionado por el Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de la República de Nagorno Karabaj (véase el anexo).

La Misión Permanente de la República de Armenia solicita a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado que tenga a bien distribuir la presente nota verbal y su anexo\* como documento del 33<sup>er</sup> período de sesiones del Consejo de Derechos Humanos en relación con los temas 3, 4 y 9 de la agenda.

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\* Se reproduce tal como se recibió, en el idioma en que se presentó únicamente.

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*[Inglés únicamente]*

**Annex to the note verbale dated 30 September 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**Letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic addressed to the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

I am writing to you with regard to your statement made at the opening of the 33rd session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on September 13, where you noted that your “Office has had no access to the conflict situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, including since the events of April 2016. Consequently, conflicting claims of human rights violations cannot be verified, and the plight of hundreds of thousands of internally displaced people and refugees has not received the kind of human rights scrutiny that it deserves”.

While highly appreciating your willingness to verify the information on human rights violations in the context of the April events, I want to note the absence of any appeal for access to Nagorno Karabakh forwarded from your Office to the authorities of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

We recognize that your Office is mandated to pursue protection and promotion of human rights anywhere in the world guided by the principles of impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity.

We regret that for more than two decades the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has not been able to visit our Republic and not even after the Azerbaijani aggression this April. In our view, the OHCHR should be able to verify well-documented cases of massive and grave human rights violations and war crimes committed by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces both against Nagorno Karabakh civilian population and its military personnel. We strongly believe that the international community has to react to these crimes in order to prevent their recurrence; otherwise, the impunity enjoyed by perpetrators would encourage further use of force by Azerbaijan against the people of Nagorno Karabakh.

We are convinced that the people of Nagorno Karabakh are entitled and should exercise all human rights and fundamental freedoms as any other people around the globe, without distinction of any kind. The elected authorities of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic are making constant efforts to ensure that every person can equally enjoy all the rights enshrined in the international human rights acquis. Although the NKR has not been in a position to formally take on commitments before international organizations due to the lack of the membership to the international organizations, we have, nevertheless, unilaterally acceded to a number of international conventions and covenants such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the European Cultural Convention.

Let me assure you that the authorities of Nagorno Karabakh Republic are very open to have a genuine cooperation with the OHCHR with a view of strengthening democratic norms and principles as well as protection of human rights in situations of conflict.

Mr. High Commissioner,

Allow me, on behalf of the authorities of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic to invite you to visit Nagorno Karabakh or to dispatch your team in order to make an impartial and objective assessment of the human rights situation and the crimes perpetrated against people of Nagorno Karabakh in April this year.

*(Signed)* Karen Mirzoyan  
Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
Nagorno Karabakh Republic

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