



Assemblée générale

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Conseil des droits de l'homme

Trente-troisième session

Points 3, 4 et 9 de l'ordre du jour

Promotion et protection de tous les droits de l'homme, civils, politiques, économiques, sociaux et culturels, y compris le droit au développement

Situations relatives aux droits de l'homme qui requièrent l'attention du Conseil

Le racisme, la discrimination raciale, la xénophobie et l'intolérance qui y est associée : suivi et application de la Déclaration et du Programme d'action de Durban

Note verbale datée du 30 septembre 2016, adressée au Haut-Commissariat aux droits de l'homme par la Mission permanente de l'Arménie auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève

La Mission permanente de la République d'Arménie auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève et des autres organisations internationales à Genève présente ses compliments au Haut-Commissariat aux droits de l'homme et a l'honneur de lui faire tenir ci-joint copie d'une lettre adressée au Haut-Commissaire aux droits de l'homme par le Ministre des affaires étrangères de la République du Haut-Karabakh (voir annexe).

La Mission permanente de la République d'Arménie demande au Haut-Commissariat de bien vouloir faire distribuer la présente note verbale et son annexe* en tant que document de la trente-troisième session du Conseil des droits de l'homme, au titre des points 3, 4 et 9 de l'ordre du jour.

* L'annexe est distribuée telle qu'elle a été reçue, dans la langue originale seulement.

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Merci de recycler



**Annexe à la note verbale datée du 30 septembre 2016
adressée au Haut-Commissariat aux droits de l'homme
par la Mission permanente de l'Arménie auprès
de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève**

**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
