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

Statement
On the Ceasefire Violations along the Line of Contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 1049th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
April 30, 2015

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the continued ceasefire violations along the Line of Contact between Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan.

On April 21st a military vehicle, transporting military personnel, was hit by distant explosion of radio-controlled mine. As a result servicemen of Nagorno-Karabakh Defence Army were wounded.

This deliberate military provocation was carefully planned. To inflict the highest possible number of casualties the Azerbaijani military leadership exercised video control of the terrain by UAV. Later on the video shooting was distributed via social networks. This deplorable practice of promotion of violence through social networks is in line with the best "practices" of terrorist organizations in the Middle East.

It is noteworthy that Azerbaijan does not conceal its ceasefire violations but even publicise them. Moreover, the Azerbaijani Minister of Defence did not shy away to openly acknowledge that ceasefire violations are taking place in line with his orders. At the meeting with Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office he claimed that he had ordered armed forces to immediately attack any moving military object in complete disregard to the calls of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs to strictly adhere to the 1994 ceasefire agreement

In response to our previous statements the Azerbaijani delegation pointed out that the Minister of Defense of Azerbaijan is young and newly appointed. However, the level of maturity of Azerbaijani highest military leadership cannot justify steps aimed at deteriorating security situation. To the contrary, this type of extremely important position should be entrusted to a person of high integrity and responsibility in order to prevent reckless adventures. And we reiterate here that the Azerbaijani side bears all the responsibility for the consequences of its military provocations.

HADIKGASSE 28/1, 1140 VIENNA Tel: +43 1-890 63 63
E-Mail: armeniapm@armenianmission.at Fax: +43 1-890 63 63 150

We would like to reiterate once again that the final settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is possible, if the Azerbaijani side adheres itself to the 1994 trilateral ceasefire agreement, implements the necessary CSBMs, including withdrawal of snipers and establishment of investigative mechanism into ceasefire violations, refrains from military provocations and war mongering rhetoric. Armenia is ready to implement all mentioned CSBMs and continue peaceful talks in the format of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

Thank You.