

## **NKR Human Rights Defender's response to the Azerbaijani Ombudsman's appeal on regarding the 21<sup>st</sup> September International Day of Peace**

Dear colleagues,

Let me draw Your attention to the following facts regarding the chimerical appeal of the Azerbaijani Ombudsman Elmira Suleymanova and her motives posted on 22 September 2014.

1. The territories, which as E.Suleymanova believes have been “occupied” by Armenia, are, in fact, under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh (Article 142 of the NKR Constitution), that is, the protection and control of these territories and security of the population are implemented by the NKR Defense Army and the human rights protection - by the NKR Ombudsman.

2. The Azerbaijani Ombudsman's appeal carries mere political, simultaneously disinformation character which is targeted to divert the international community's and her country's citizens' attention away from numerous, including politically motivated human rights abuses. In this situation I will urge the Azerbaijani Ombudsman to target her efforts on the execution of her immediate responsibilities for eliminating the human rights and freedoms violations in Azerbaijan. Particularly, nowadays when a number of international and national official and non-governmental human rights protection organizations, such as European Parliament, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Norwegian Fund “House of Human Rights” and other human rights organizations are concerned about the politically motivated arrest by the Azerbaijani authorities of well-known human rights activist Leyla Yunus and her husband Arif Yunus. On this occasion, Members of European Parliament condemn the arrest of Leyla and Arif Yunus and call on the Azerbaijani authorities to release them. Moreover, as the press service of the European Parliament has reported, Azerbaijani human rights activist Leyla Yunus has been nominated by the Greens/EFA group for the 2014 Sakharov Prize for freedom of thought.

While the Azerbaijani Ombudsman E.Suleymanova who shall ex officio spare no efforts for protection of their rights and their illegal arrest, has not taken any measures for the elimination of abuses against them, moreover, she has not even made any statement concerning this fact.

I do not exclude that the Azerbaijani Ombudsman's attitude towards the human rights activist is due to L.Yunus's frequent and fair critics impeaching E.Suleymanova for being complaisant to the executive authorities.

3. Due to E.Suleymanova's political appeals, the institute has become another disinformation, propaganda subdivision of the country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Unfortunately, the Azerbaijani Ombudsman has not followed European Ombudsman Institute's advice (sent via e-mail on 28 February 2014) and continues sending us incongruous statements which, dear colleagues, diverts from our immediate responsibilities.

Consequently, I expect the adequate response of the EOI to the behavior of the Azerbaijani Ombudsman and hope that she will be debarred from the use of the Institute's e-mail service.

Yours Sincerely,

Yuri Hayrapetyan