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## STATEMENT

### **on acts of violence by Armenians against Azerbaijani people protesting peacefully in the United States and the European Union**

Our compatriots living abroad have held protests against the provocations launched by the Armenian armed forces since July 12 of this year in the direction of Tovuz region on the Azerbaijani-Armenian border and firing of heavy artillery towards the border areas and settlements. Despite the peaceful nature of the protests, Armenians committed acts of violence against Azerbaijani protesters in France, Great Britain, Sweden, Poland, Australia, the United States, the Netherlands and Belgium, as well as the buildings of Azerbaijani diplomatic missions in these countries.

As a result of the violence, hundreds of our compatriots who took part in peaceful actions agreed with the state authorities received various degrees of bodily injuries, were beaten, insulted, humiliated, and their property was damaged. Such illegal actions grossly violated the rights of our compatriots to freedom of assembly and expression, as well as to a safe life. Despite the fact that all these - acts of violence and vandalism - often took place in front of the police, who were supposed to be responsible for ensuring the safety of the protests, it is unfortunate that adequate measures were not taken.

Freedom of assembly belongs to the category of freedoms protected by international law and having a universal nature. Everyone has this universal value enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights and other international documents. All states, without distinction, are and must be responsible for the exercise and guarantee of these freedoms for all. According to the norms of the modern civilized world, it is inadmissible to discriminate against people due to nationality, to turn a blind eye to fascist behavior, to remain indifferent to crime.

The states and governments of France, Great Britain, Sweden, Poland, Australia, the United States, the Netherlands, and Belgium must give a fair legal assessment for the cases of physical violence, humiliation, inhuman treatment of our compatriots and lynching of protesters by representatives of the Armenian Diaspora during peaceful protests in the United States and Europe, and the perpetrators must be punished with all the severity of the law.

International Human Rights Organizations, as well as the European Union, the European Council and the relevant OSCE structures, do not have to remain silent the pre-planned and organized criminal actions of the Armenian Diaspora, which promotes xenophobia, ethnic discord and hostility in Europe and violates the values of tolerance and multiculturalism. By taking a principled stand on this issue, it must demonstrate its commitment to the human rights, tolerance and multiculturalism promoted by Europe.

We must also note the responsibility of international organizations and leading European countries to remain silent about the regular recurrence of such crimes by Armenians as a result of the ideology of ethnic cleansing put forward by the Armenians to the Azerbaijani people.

Suffice it to recall the massacre of the peaceful Azerbaijani population of the city of Khojaly by Armenian armed forces in the early hours of 26 February 1992. Those tragic events have been recognized as an act of genocide by more than 10 states and condemned at the level of international organizations.

In Khojaly, Armenian militants killed 613 people with particular cruelty, 421 civilians were tortured and humiliated, 1,275 people were missing or taken prisoner, and the city itself was almost completely burned out. As a result of the received gunshot wounds, more than a thousand civilians became disabled. Among those killed were 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly.

Eight families were completely destroyed, 25 children lost both parents and 130 lost one of them. Fifty-six people were burned alive.

The murder by Armenian aggressors of two-year-old Zahra Guliyeva, who died together with her grandmother in the aftermath of shelling of the Alkhanli village of Fuzuli district on 4 July 2017, is just as indicative.

As the Open Government Platform of Azerbaijan, we call the states and governments of France, Great Britain, Sweden, Poland, Australia, the United States, the Netherlands and Belgium, where acts of violence against our compatriots have taken place, to ensure their rights established by international law standards by fulfilling their international obligations and to bring offenders to justice and to take other appropriate measures. We call on International Human Rights Organizations to give a fair assessment for the criminal actions of the Republic of Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora in the United States and European countries against Azerbaijanis.