



REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME JUDICIAL COUNCIL

17 Koryun St., Yerevan 0010, Republic of Armenia

N 1-7203

«15» October 2020

European Network of Councils for the Judiciary
To the President Filippo Donati
Cc:ENJC Members

Dear President Donati and colleagues,

We are appealing to you in belief that ENJC's and its members shall be informed of the terrifying and tragic events happening these days in Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh), due to the unprecedented extent, rude and cynic scale of violations of international law and human rights.

It goes beyond any imagination that in the modern world an unhidden attempt of extermination of the ethnic population and application of terror against the right to life of Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh).

The pre-planned large-scale military aggression unleashed by the authoritarian regime of Azerbaijan with full backing of Turkey pursues clear genocidal intent. In front of the whole world weapons prohibited by the international humanitarian law are used against peaceful civilians in Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh), cities and villages are treacherously destroyed, cultural objects are being demolished, unarmed people including women and children are being killed, the evidence of which is obvious and undeniable. The armed forces of Azerbaijan launched airstrikes at the Holy Savior Ghazanchetsots Cathedral (opened since 1887) and House of Culture in Shushi causing significant damages and wounding peaceful civilians, including journalists.

It has already been recognized by the international community that all these atrocities are committed also through thousands of mercenaries transferred to Azerbaijan from terroristic organizations, including ISIS-linked terrorist groups, which apparently operate under the auspices of the Azerbaijan and Turkish leaderships.

Terrorism does not have a national, religious, social description, the fight against terrorism is a priority in all civilized countries. Yet, no one is ensured from the danger to face terrorism. Judiciaries across Europe play important role in effective fight against terrorism.

We believe, that our fellow colleagues throughout Europe shall not silently observe the undisguised try of Turk – Azeri militarists to slaughter the Armenian nation of big European family and erase unique cultural heritage formed over thousands of centuries.

Glorification of perpetrators of hate crimes by Azerbaijan against Armenians, systemic use of hate speech by political leaders, educational institutions and media have been documented by international organizations, including the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance of the Council of Europe and Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

On October 6th of 2020, the European Court of Human Rights satisfied the request lodged by the Government of the Republic of Armenia for interim measure, calling on all states directly or indirectly involved in the conflict, including Turkey, to refrain from actions that contribute to breaches of the Convention rights of civilians and to respect their obligations under the Convention.

Please note, that notwithstanding the ceasefire agreed on October 10, Azerbaijan uninterruptedly continues bombing, attacking, wounding and killing civilians. It is now obvious that the victory of terrorism in this small territory is fraught with detrimental consequences for both the region, Europe and the entire civilized world at large.

We urge for your immediate action in condemning aggression and violence and contribution to the termination of the genocidal war in Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh).

Sincerely



RUBEN VARDAZARYAN