RESTORATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE AZERBAIJAN LANDS OCCUPIED BY ARMENIA

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Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr G. Aliyev, Ms Hajiyeva and others

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only the members who have signed it

Since 1988 the State of Armenia has been waging a war of occupation against neighbouring Azerbaijan with a view to annexing its Nagorny Karabakh region. This war has inflicted terrible misfortunes to the Azerbaijani people. The armed forces of Armenia have occupied about 20% of the territory of Azerbaijan, including Nagorny Karabakh and 7 surrounding districts. As a consequence of the armed aggression, more than 20,000 Azeris were killed, more than 20,000 injured, about 50,000 handicapped, 5,000 captured and taken hostage, and nearly one million Azeris forcibly displaced. The war resulted in 877 towns and villages, thousands of industrial and agricultural enterprises, schools, hospitals, historical and cultural monuments being destroyed, burned down or plundered.

The war of occupation continued through a number of legislative acts of the State of Armenia. Thus, on 2 December 1988 the Supreme Council (Parliament) of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic passed a resolution on "Unification of the Armenian SSR and Nagorny Karabakh" (see Vedomosti Verkhovnogo Soveta Armyanskoy SSR, 1989, No. 23, paragraph 144), whereby the commonly recognized part of Azerbaijan was "incorporated" into Armenia. Furthermore, Nagorny Karabakh was proclaimed as part of the territory of Armenia in a Declaration on State Sovereignty of Armenia adopted on 23 August 1991 (see Vedomosti Verkhovnogo Soveta Armyansloy SSR, 1991, No. 23, paras. 448, 449). The supreme legal authority and importance of that declaration is reaffirmed in the Preamble of the current Constitution of Armenia.

It is to be stressed that up to now, the four UN Security Council Resolutions adopted in relation to the said conflict (Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884) (all dated 1993) which explicitly demand that all occupied territories of Azerbaijan be unconditionally released have not been complied with .

Human rights are totally violated in the occupied Azerbaijani lands.

The Assembly, considering the above-mentioned actions of Armenia as a real threat to the peace, security and stability in Europe consider that the invasion of the armed forces of Armenia into the territory of Azerbaijan, and the occupation of the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan as well as 7 districts adjacent to that region must be qualified as an act of aggression and demand that Armenia immediately and unconditionally release all occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Assembly recommend that the Committee of Ministers launch a monitoring procedure and consider the possibility of imposing sanctions on the State of Armenia pursuant to the Charter of the Council of Europe.

Signed: [1] Aliyev G, Azerbaijan, EDG Hajiyeva, Azerbaijan, EPP Abbasov, Azerbaijan, EDG Akgonenc, Turkey, EDG Aliyev I, Azerbaijan, EDG Arzilli, San Marino, EPP Clerfayt, Belgium, LDR Glesenev, Luxembourg, EPP Gligoroski, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", EPP Goulet, France, EDG Gulek, Turkey, SOC Huseynov A, Azerbaijan, EDG Huseynov R, Azerbaijan, LDR Ibrahimov, Azerbaijan, LDR Juri, Slovenia, SOC Kalkan, Turkey EDG Landsbergis, Lithuania, EPP Mintas-Hodak, Croatia, Saglam, Turkey, EPP Seyidov, Azerbaijan, EDG Shakhtakhtinskaya, Azerbaijan, EDG

Skarbovik, Norway, EPP Skrabalo, Croatia, LDR Vakilov, Azerbaijan, EDG

[1] SOG: Socialist Group EPP: Group of the European People's Party EDG: European Democratic Group

LDR: Liberal, Democratic and Reformers' Group UEL: Group of the Unified European Left NR: not registered in a group