

Honorable President, distinguished members of the Human Rights Council, ladies, and gentlemen,

During and after the latest September – November 2020 war in Nagorno Karabakh dozens of torture and inhuman treatment cases of Armenian military servicemen and civilians by Azerbaijani Armed Forces have been reported and widely published in media and social networks. Beheadings alive, mutilation of bodies, cases of execution and beatings were documented.

Thorough analyses officials' speeches and the words used by the military of Azerbaijan in the mentioned videos have revealed evident similarities.

The existence of ethically motivated crimes against Armenians by Azerbaijanis and the fact that these crimes are being encouraged by Azerbaijani authorities have been confirmed by several judgments of the European Court of Human Rights.

Artificial delay of the release and return of Armenian prisoners of war and civilian captives by Azerbaijani authorities despite absolute requirement of the International Humanitarian Law cause mental suffering to their families and deep emotional trauma to the Armenian society.

The Human Rights Defender of Armenia will continue bringing these human rights violations to the attention of international bodies for their restoration and effective prevention in the future.

I thank you very much for your attention.