

Statement of the Armenian Ombudsman on the killing of peaceful civilians by Azerbaijani forces

The text of the statement of the Armenian Ombudsman reads as follows:

“Dear colleagues,

Yesterday Azerbaijan grossly violated the Article 3 of the Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian Population. The Article first of all prohibits all kinds of infringement upon life and health of the peaceful population taking no active part in the hostilities. Besides, the Protocol I additional to the Geneva Conventions prohibits any kind of attacks on places inhabited by civilian population. It is also prohibited to attack objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, such as food-stuffs, agricultural areas for the production of food-stuffs.

However, Azerbaijan has attacked the residential houses and sowing areas of Armenian border villages. Two women were killed when at home in Berdavan village of Tavush region. In another village of the same region an elderly woman was killed when gathering the harvest, and two other peaceful civilians were severely injured.

In conditions of inadequate reaction to the killing of peaceful civilians on the part of international community, the only solution would be to make self-defensive counterattacks. It is impermissible and undesirable for us, since human life both in Armenia and elsewhere is of highest value for us. To prevent new casualties, the international community must stop the cautious diplomatic behavior of putting an equality sign between a killer-state and a bombarded peaceful population and support the peaceful population and protection of basic human rights and the Geneva Conventions”.

**Karen Andreasyan
Ombudsman of Armenia**