

Armenian Ombudsman calls to condemn extradition and pardon of the Azeri murderer

Armenian Ombudsman calls upon Ombudsmen and international organizations worldwide to condemn extradition and pardon of the Azeri murderer.

Hungary and Azerbaijan violated the rights of Armenian citizens

It is not within the mandate of the Armenian Ombudsman to comment on the law violations committed by the authorities of other states; however, taking into account the fact that the extradition by the Hungarian authorities and following pardon by Azerbaijan of the Azeri officer, who had murdered an Armenian soldier for ethnic reasons resulted in violation of the rights of concrete citizens of the Republic of Armenia, I deem it necessary to comment on the violation of rights of citizens that occurred as a result of the release of the murderer.

The extradition of the axe murderer was done with violations of the spirit and principles of the 1983 Strasbourg Convention. According to international law, the State should follow the provisions of the Convention faithfully (*pacta sunt servanda*) which was not in this case. Even if Hungary artificially followed the corresponding provisions of the Convention, the related principles of the international law were also violated as Hungary could and/or was obliged to predict the illegal consequences of the extradition.

In addition, the purposes of the sentence of the murderer were also neglected, that is: restoration of social justice, improvement of the sentenced person as well as prevention of crimes. Action of both Hungary and Azerbaijan failed to implement all three purposes of the punishment.

It is useless to reflect here on concrete violations of human rights and principles of international law by Azerbaijan as they are obvious. Moreover, systemic mass human rights violations occurring constantly in Azerbaijan are well-known to international community.

Being a full member of a number of many international human rights organizations, including the International Ombudsman Institute, UN NHRI, European Ombudsman Institute, Association of Mediators and Ombudsmen of the French Speaking countries, Asian Ombudsmen Association I **call upon all national human rights institutions to strongly condemn the extradition by Hungary of the slaughterer, committed the murder for ethnic reasons as well as expected release and his turning into “national hero” by the authorities of Azerbaijan.**

Silence or inadequate response of progressive and democratic states indirectly justifies and promotes manslaughter driven by ethnic or religious hatred.

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Human Rights Defender (Ombudsman) of Armenia

The present message is conveyed to Ombudspersons and international organizations of around 100 countries.

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