



October 21, 2010

To: Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria

*Dear Mr. Konstantin Penchev,*

*First of all let me sincerely congratulate you upon the election as a new Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria and wish you success and achievements in all your initiatives.*

Herewith let me kindly inform you on the following:

Citizen of the Republic of Armenia, Mrs. Ruzanna Mkhitarian, living on Mashtots street, apartment 14, house 27, Yerevan, in her request addressed to the RA Human Rights Defender informed that her under – age son Albert Armeni Stepanyan/14.05.1993/ left for Bulgaria/Varna/ on July 31, 2010 for his holiday. In the result of an incident taken place on 01.08.2010 her son was groundlessly accused of disorderly and insulting behavior. Groundlessness of the accusation was stated even by the victim himself informing the law-enforcement bodies that Albert Armeni Stepanyan was not among the persons taking part in the incident. In spite of this fact the clothes of Albert Stepanyan were presented for expertise, but according to the representatives of law-enforcement bodies the results of the expertise have not been finalized yet.

Mrs. Ruzanna Mkhitarian mentioned that according to her information the measures undertaken by the Bulgarian law-enforcement bodies are illegal and the case is groundlessly being delayed. She indicated that both her son and the victim of the incident are citizens of the Republic of Armenia. Besides it is important to point out that Albert Stepanyan is in bad health condition and periodically needs medical treatment, as well as, being a student, he gets behind the university curricula.

Herewith I kindly ask you to commission to examine the information provided by Mrs. Ruzanna Mkhitarian and inform me about the legal basis of keeping the citizen of the Republic of Armenia Albert Armeni Stepanyan in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely`

Armen Harutyunyan