

Ombudsman's interview on "Harsnaqar" case

In every civilized society there is civic responsibility, besides legal one

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"I envy those political powers, which are free to express their personal opinion: how outraged they are on "Harsnaqar's" case, how it is unacceptable and shameful", the Ombudsman Karen Andreyan stated during today's press –conference in "Henaran" club. Ombudsman stated that due to his position he cannot express his opinion and even take part in the ceremony of Candle lighting. "I can make an example- when American society learns that "Gap" is exploiting children, people stop using their products. Presently, if our society comes to the conclusion that there is a need for moral and civic responsibility I think we will have the active civil society which will form also civic attitude besides legal one towards various incidents".

Furthermore Ombudsman mentioned that if he were not holding the position of the Ombudsman he would be one of the initiators of civic actions as "every normal civil society would behave this way".

Commented on why he did not make an announcement regarding the death of Vahe Avetyan Ombudsman mentioned that Ombudsperson makes announcements only in controversial cases, but this case is so indisputable, that his announcement would be just a bunch of words.

"While public expects condolences from the state bodies, it expects Ombudsman to act, but this is a case when the Ombudsman cannot interfere, and assessments must be given by the Prosecutor and the Court" K. Andreyan stated.

Ombudsman gave only an overall assessment to the case, noting that this results from various fears- fear that people will appear in court with an illegal verdict, fear to be beaten by the Police, fear of failing to economically protect one's children, etc. However, it is authorities who should be afraid of losing their positions when taking bribes, the muscular young people should be afraid of demonstrating violence leading to beating another young man to death, etc.

According to K. Andreyan's definition - fears equilibration is seriously distorted and insurmountable, as long as there is no justice: ""Harsnaqar" is a big stone on this series of fears, where all of us are afraid of muscular young people, and the fear is insurmountable as long as there are no proper judicial reforms. If our Court was not the Court we have now, we would not have such

problems, starting from labor relations ending with the cases of beating people, which have become usual. Investigator- Prosecutor- Court – here is the main chain for all these” – Ombudsman stated.

To remind on June 17, several officers of the Ministry of Defence were severely beaten in “Harsnaqar” restaurant. One of them - the head of Urology Department of the RA Defense Ministry Hospital, Major Vahe Avetyan died on June 29.

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