

IT'S TWO YEARS, THAT YEREVAN MUNICIPALITY HASN'T FULFILLED THE PROMISE GIVEN TO THE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Back in October, 2011, the Human Right Defender with people in wheelchairs tried to use public transport in Yerevan. It became obvious, that none of the public transport in Yerevan is accessible for people with reduced mobility. Today, nearly 4000 persons with disabilities with mobility difficulties live in Armenia, for whom the public transport, buildings and even the streets still continue to be inaccessible.

Even then, the representatives of Yerevan Municipality promised to deal with that issue, and 66 buses that were to be imported from China to Armenia would be accessible for persons with disabilities. Two years have passed since then, but the buses imported to Armenia are not still accessible for them. All the applications of citizens in regards to this issue have been rejected reasoning that the buses are under warranty service; and the Chinese side does not allow doing the respective work on them.

However, the study of the Contract on the donation of the Buses by the People's Republic of China to Armenia, reveal that the warranty period of the buses has expired, and the contract is no longer in force. Therefore, the Armenian side can now do the adaptation activities without any hindrances. Instead, the official inform that the Municipality is negotiating with the Government of China to get license to install elevators on the imported buses and cannot present the exact dates as to when the accessibility activities of the busses will be done.

Thus, due to the inaction of Yerevan Municipality regarding the accessibility of the public transport, every day the right of persons with disabilities to access public transport without any obstacles is being violated, which is enshrined both by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and by the RA Law "On the Social Protection of the Persons with Disabilities in the RA," the Article 22 of which clearly states that the development and production of transportation means is not allowed, if they are not adapted for the accessibility and use of the persons with disabilities.

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