



**Intersessional meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Thematic session – Mandate of the President**

**Second Right of Reply
delivered by Mr. Seymur Mardaliyev,
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

Geneva, 22 June 2021

Mr. President,

I am compelled to take the floor again to exercise my delegation's second right of reply to the remarks just made by the representative of Armenia.

If Armenia is so consistent, as the representative of Armenia tries to claim, with its anti-landmines obligations under the international law, especially international humanitarian law, may I pose a simple and straight question to the Armenian representative as when is Armenia going to release the maps of the remaining minefields in the liberated territories of Azerbaijan in this case?

As for the allegations raised by the Armenian representative on the Armenian prisoners of war kept in Azerbaijan, let me reiterate that in further fulfilment of the provisions of the trilateral statement of November 2020, Azerbaijan has returned all Armenian prisoners of war to Armenia. Contrary to the groundless accusations of Armenia, Azerbaijan currently holds no detainees classified as prisoners of war under the international humanitarian law.

At the same time, we call on Armenia to abandon its futile approach of distorting facts and misrepresenting information on the circumstances and reasons for the detention of members of the terrorist-sabotage group of the armed forces of Armenia captured in the liberated Xocavənd region of Azerbaijan who are not considered prisoners of war in accordance with international humanitarian law. The members of this group were deployed to the territories of Azerbaijan on 26 November 2020 – two weeks after the trilateral Statement on cessation of hostilities had been signed – by illegally crossing the international border from Armenia into Azerbaijan and committed acts of sabotage and terrorism against the Azerbaijani military personnel and civilians that resulted in killing of four Azerbaijani soldiers and seriously wounding one civilian. They are liable under the criminal legislation of Azerbaijan and the investigation is underway.

Moreover, the European Court of Human Rights rejected Armenia's appeals to immediately release eleven Armenian nationals currently detained in Azerbaijan several days ago. By rejecting the appeals lodged by Armenia, the Court confirmed Azerbaijan's rights and obligations under the international law to investigate and detain as well as prosecute individuals suspected of violating national and international law, including committing heinous war crimes.

As far as the capturing of the members of Armenian armed sabotage groups in Kəlbəcər region of Azerbaijan is concerned, I recommend the representative of Armenia to get acquainted with the statement of the Prime Minister of Armenia to better understand what and how happened that Armenian military illegally entered into the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan.

I thank you.