

The Human Rights Defender of Armenia has come up with an official position regarding the Berdzor incident and has applied to his NKR counterpart

The Human Rights Defender of Armenia has addressed a letter to Mr. Yuri Hayrapetyan, Human Rights Defender of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, with the following content:

“We are saddened by the news that citizens of the Republic of Armenia were met by masked persons in civilian clothes, as well as by persons in police uniforms in Berdzor, on January 31, 2015, who later applied force against the participants of the automobile march. According to the allegations of the participant citizens of the incident, the participants of the automobile march, including Zhirayr Sefilyan, Mkhitar Avetisyan, Kerob Ghazaryan, Alek Yenigomshyan, Varuzhan Avetisyan, Anushavan Shahnazaryan have sustained body injuries. Besides that, vehicles of most of the participants got damaged, the video-recording devices and flags were taken by force. The most painful is that manifestations of violence against journalists, children and women are also reported. We strongly condemn any manifestation of hindering peaceful assembly in any place.

Taking into consideration that the incident occurred on the territory of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, and that we don't have any jurisdiction to intervene in the investigation of the case, I ask You, within Your capacities, to take measures to investigate the details of the incident and to restore the rights of the citizens.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic has made significant progress in the protection of human rights and democracy ever since its independence. Therefore, we do hope that relevant state agencies will properly proceed with the applications and complaints of the incident participants and that they will generate a positive result.

Continuing long-term cooperation between our Institutions in the frames of the European Ombudsman Institute, as well as in bilateral format, we express our willingness to contribute to the solution of this issue upon necessity.

Staff of the Human Rights Defender of Armenia