

# Weekly Newsletter



## Monitoring in Child Shelter "Umid Yeri" (Place of Hope)



The staff members of the Ombudsman Institution of Azerbaijan, Ms. Nigar Aghayeva, head of the Child Rights Protection Unit, and Ms. Ulker Hasanova, a psychologist and a member of the Ombudsman's NPM Team visited children deprived of parental care, who were placed in the child shelter "Ümid Yeri" (Place of Hope).

Ombudsman's representatives had talks with the children to learn about their situation.

During the meeting, the individual and psychological condition of the children were assessed, they were provided with psychological assistance and informed of their rights.

Monitors discussed the issues of education and guardianship of children, and general protection of their rights with the management of the shelter facility.



## **Azerbaijani Ombudsman made a Statement concerning the 29th anniversary of the Bashlibel Massacre**

The tatement reads: "Today 29 years have passed since the Bashlibel massacre.

As a result of the genocide, deportation, ethnic cleansing, and occupation policy of Armenia against Azerbaijan based on the hatred, thousands of innocent Azerbaijanis became victims of crimes of genocide by mercilessly murdering.

One of the war crimes, committed against human beings and resulted in mass extermination, occurred during the occupation of the Bashlibel village of the Kalbajar district of Azerbaijan in April of 1993. This act of crime resulted in a bloodbath of the villagers, including children, women, persons with disabilities, and the elderly as a result of torture. Some of them were even burnt alive.

During the occupation of the Bashlibel village by Armenia, 62 civilians took refuge in a cave to escape, but when Armenians identified their place, they were subjected to an armed attack and killed.

After the liberation of the Kalbajar district, the Azerbaijani side identified a mass burial of those civilians, who were brutally massacred by Armenian armed forces and buried near the cave by their co-villagers. The remains of those massacred residents were exhumed, identified, and buried separately. The survivors' testimonies also confirm that there were hostages among the residents during the Bashlibel massacre and there are still persons, reported missing.

The historical, cultural, and religious objects in Bashlibel, which was one of the oldest and largest villages of Kalbajar were destroyed.

As a result of the Bashlibel massacre committed by Armenia, which also resulted in vandalism against the historical and cultural heritage of Azerbaijan, the international law norms on human rights were once again severely violated.

We believe that the perpetrators of numerous crimes committed by Armenia against peaceful Azerbaijanis, including the Bashlibel massacre, will soon be brought to justice."



## **Media Statement of the Ombudsman on another mine threat**

The Statement reads: "The mine problem in the liberated areas of Azerbaijan, along with delaying the return of the IDPs to their native lands, resulted in a high number of human casualties and caused life disabilities. After the Second Karabakh War ceased, as a result of the mine explosions around 200 Azerbaijanis, died and got injured.

Yesterday another such tragedy was prevented during the trip organized for the residents of Guneshli village of the Kalbajar district to visit their houses. Consequently, thanks to the careful handling of the serviceman of the military of Azerbaijan, who was accompanying one of the villagers in this way, an anti-tank mine was detected in that village, where houses were built close to each other, by which the lives of about 20 people, including villagers, state officials, and media representatives were saved.

It is estimated that those mines, which can cause mass human casualties, were buried in 2020 during the time limit given to Armenians to leave the district. Unfortunately, in response to the humanist approach of Azerbaijan, Armenia's crimes are continued to threaten the lives of innocent civilians. Two journalists and one civil servant were also killed by an explosion of an anti-tank mine in the same district in June last year.

The use of mines by Armenia near a civilian object and despite repeated calls of the Azerbaijani side to share accurate mine maps, the failure to do so, lead to a serious violation of the number of fundamental human rights in violation of international humanitarian law. Despite our frequent calls on international organizations in this regard, there was no result.

As the Azerbaijani Ombudsman, I once again express my serious concern about mine danger and remind Armenia to fulfill its commitments under international law, and call on international organizations to support Azerbaijan in this issue by demonstrating a justiciable approach and expressing a firm attitude. "

## Ombudsman met with Ambassador of Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Morocco

Azerbaijani Ombudsman Ms. Sabina Aliyeva received Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Morocco to Azerbaijan Mr. Mohamed Adil Embarch.

During the meeting, the parties discussed the development of bilateral relations between the two countries.

S.Aliyeva spoke about her official visit to the Kingdom of Morocco, that she visited to participate in the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the OIC Ombudsmen Association. She also gave information on her meetings with the Moroccan Minister of Justice, Ombudsperson, and representatives of the Parliament.

It was added that a Memorandum of Understanding between the ombuds institutions of two countries is planned to be signed.



The parties also discussed cooperation perspectives with the National Human Rights Council of Morocco.

Furthermore, the diplomat was informed about Armenia's terror policy against Azerbaijan, plundering of our territories for about 30 years while being under the occupation, environmental impacts of war, as well as the contamination of the liberated areas with mines. It was spoken about the numerous reports produced by the Ombuds Institution about Armenia's war crimes committed during the Second Karabakh War, which were submitted to relevant international organizations.

In the end, the parties agreed on the importance of exchanging good practices between the ombuds institution of the two countries.



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## An Awareness-raising Event was held for Information Holding State Bodies in Sabirabad District of Azerbaijan



The Ombudsman Institution of Azerbaijan organized an awareness-raising event on the topic "Ensuring the Right of Access to Information in the Human Rights Context". The event was attended by representatives of the Sabirabad District Executive Power, the district police department, the education department and other information holding government agencies.

During the event, Ms. Lamiya Zeynalova, Head for Department on Protection of the Right to

Information at the Ombudsman Institution, and some staff members in charge of right to information protection at the Ombudsman's Office delivered speeches on the Ombudsman's control mechanism over the implementation of the Law on Access to Information granted under the Constitutional Law on Ombudsman of Azerbaijan.

The participants were informed about the provision and promotion of the right to information, review and monitoring procedures of the relevant applications on the violation of this right, monitoring and analysis. The participants were also informed about the existing international treaties on protection of the right of access to information.

During the event, there was a wide exchange of views on the topic and recommendations were given.

At the end, the participants were presented with educational booklets "Let's know our right to information" and "Let's ensure the right to information."