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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
AT GENEVA



AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASININ BMT-nin
CENEVRƏ ŞƏHƏRİNDƏKİ BÖLMƏSİ VƏ
DİGƏR BEYNƏLXALQ TƏSKİLATLAR YANINDA
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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honor to transmit herewith comments of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the questionnaire elaborated by the Special Rapporteur on the rights to peaceful assembly and association.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations at Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure: 1 page.

Geneva, 9 February 2015



THE OFFICE OF THE UN HIGH
COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
GENEVA

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Comments on Questionnaire

The promotion and protection of the Azerbaijani citizens' rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association is fully ensured by the Government in accordance with the Constitution and international treaties which the country is a party to.

The rights of Azerbaijani citizens to peaceful assembly and association have been enshrined in the following main legal acts:

Article 49 of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan states: "Everyone has the right, peacefully and without arms, to meet with other people, organize meetings, demonstrations, processions, place pickets".

The Constitution also clearly recognizes everyone's right to be on strike, both individually and together with others.

Article 1 of the Law on freedom of assembly emphasizes the following: "The state ensures the realization of the freedom of assembly and takes relevant measures for holding assemblies, organized peacefully and without arms".

According to the Law, a person or persons organizing any assembly have to notify in advance the relevant body of executive power in writing. A notification has to be submitted, as a rule, 5 days prior to the day of convening the intended assembly for coordinating its time and venue, and the route of a street procession in order to allow the relevant body of executive power to make necessary arrangements. Decisions of the relevant bodies of executive power about assemblies must be communicated to organizers of the event in writing no later than 3 working days prior to the intended date of the event and these decisions shall be clear and grounded.

Furthermore, Article 19 of the Law of Trade Unions indicates that trade unions can organise and hold strikes, meetings, street marches, demonstrations and other mass gatherings under legislation in force.

The exercise of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association in the context of exploitation of natural resources is not a topical issue for Azerbaijan. The above mentioned legislation allow for full enjoyment of the right to peaceful assembly and association in this context as well.

From its side, the Government would do its utmost to ensure that the rights and concerns of citizens are taken into account when the natural resources related projects and programmes are carried out.