



**Permanent Mission  
of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
to the UN Office and other  
International Organizations**

**GENEVA**

Ref: 0639/12/18/23

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and with reference to the Latter's request dated 12 October 2018, has the honour to transmit the information of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to be included in the relevant report in compliance with the request made in the Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/RES/36/18 on "Conscientious objection to military service".

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in 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, 10 December 2018



**Office of the United Nations  
High Commissioner for Human Rights  
GENEVA**

**Information on Human Rights Council resolution 26/18 on “Conscientious objection to military service”**

According to the article 76 (II) of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan “if beliefs of citizens come into conflict with service in the army then in some cases envisaged by legislation alternative service instead of regular service is permitted”.

The main barrier to enacting legislation on alternatives to military service is continued military occupation of significant part of the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan by the neighboring Republic of Armenia. As a result of this occupation and ethnic cleansing carried out against Azerbaijani population residing in Armenia itself and in the territories of Azerbaijan that are currently occupied, nearly one million people became refugees and IDPs. The Republic of Armenia continues to ignore demands by international community to cease occupation of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan and to ensure the right of Azerbaijani refugees and IDPs to return to their homes in safety and dignity. To the contrary, the illegal resettlement policy in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and the adjacent territories show cases the intention of the Republic of Armenia to consolidate the results of its aggressive policy towards neighboring country.

In these circumstances, the enactment of legislation on alternatives to military service is linked with certain political difficulties. Thus, the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan refrains from initiating the enactment of legislation on alternatives to military service, as such an initiative would particularly cause firm opposition among refugees and IDPs, which represent a significant part of the Parliamentary electorate.

Nevertheless, religious convictions of conscripts are taken into account during their military service. In this regard, in recent years there were no registered cases of refusals to join military service due to religious identity and no legal cases in connection with evading military service for religious reasons.