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**The Implementation of the**

**UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Azerbaijan**

**Publishing information**

for the thematic report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on armed conflict to the United Nations General Assembly, 76th session

The Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Mr. Gerard Quinn

**By the Union of Disabled People Organizations[[1]](#footnote-1) (UDPO) of Azerbaijan**

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**Executive Summary**

The requested information has been prepared according to the acquired experience and methodology on preparation of three alternative reports on issues raised by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in relation to the Government of Azerbaijan. We consider the report as an important step for the implementation of the provisions of the Article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

If it is deemed necessary to provide additional information about the raised issues, the Union of Disabled People Organizations of Azerbaijan is interested to assist accordingly for the preparation of the thematic report on the rights of persons with disabilities on armed conflict.

# C: Civil Society

The purpose of this set of questions is to ascertain whether and to what extent civil society has engaged with their respective governments and militaries on the implications of the CRPD and UN Security Council Resolution 2475 (2019) in relevant military operations (including peace keeping and peace building operations) and what impact they can report from such engagement.

These are engagement-oriented questions and will be supplemented by more detailed policy questions directed at States (A: above) and operational questions directed at military authorities (B: above).

Please attach links to any relevant reports, trainings, press statements, or other documents.

## QUESTIONS

1. Please provide information on whether and how your organization engages on the protection of persons with disabilities under international humanitarian law.

*The mission of the Union of Disabled People Organizations is to support the formation of an inclusive society with equal rights and opportunities via coordination of the activities of Disabled People Organizations and protection of their rights and interests. UDPO actively participated in the process of the ratification of the UN CRPD in Azerbaijan and adaptation of the national legislation to its requirements. It was also involved in preparation of alternative and parallel reports and their submission to the Office of the UN High Commissioner (We would like to inform you that our organization has prepared 4 alternative reports on CRPD (September 2013, March 2014 and September 2018, 2019 August) and submitted them to OHCHR. Also , it has prepared reports on various CRPD articles at various times, based on inquiries from international organizations[[2]](#footnote-2)) as well as preparation and submission of the report related to the Universal Periodic Review.[[3]](#footnote-3)*

Please provide information on the engagement of your organization with the government and/or military authorities relating to the protection of persons with disabilities in armed conflict.

* 1. Who initiated the engagement?

*The initiative came from our organization. We would like to note that we collaborate mainly with the Minsitry of Emergency Situations[[4]](#footnote-4) (MES) on this matter.*

* 1. What was the motivation, purpose, and outcome of these engagements?

*The purpose of these engagements was raising awareness of persons with disabilities about the emergency situations as well as evacuation issues.*

* 1. Was Article 11 of the CRPD and/or UN Security Council Resolution 2475 (2019) discussed in these engagements?

*During and after process of preparation of the alternative reports, in our meetings we discussed with the representatives and leadership of the the Minsitry of Emergency Situations issues arising from Article 11 of the CRPDand then prepared proposals. We have involved MES staff in our trainings. We are currently represented in the Public Council[[5]](#footnote-5) established under the Ministry of Emergency Situations with the purpose to get better acquainted with this area and prepare proposals.*

1. Please provide information on whether your organization engages with the government on laws or statutes that punish criminal acts that specifically target persons with disabilities.

*Punishments for criminal acts are the same for all individuals. We work mainly with relevant government agencies, the Ombudsman and specialized NGOs in areas related to access to justice and provision of legal protection services for persons with disabilities, conditions in prisons and disability awareness.*

1. Please provide information on relevant legislation and policies related to the following:
	1. Are persons with disabilities excluded from serving in the armed forces on the basis of their disability? Do you engage with the government on this issue?

*According to the national legislation, persons with disabilities also go through medical examination when they are called for military service. If they do not meet set up requirements for the service, then they are not accepted to serve in the army.*

* 1. Do policies or programs exist that allow persons serving in the armed forces to continue serving in cases where they acquire a disability? Do you engage with the government on this issue?

*Persons serving in the armed forces are discharged from the military service if they are unable to continue it due to injuries or illness, and then they are assigned a disability.*

* 1. What supports are available to assist persons experiencing psychosocial trauma as a consequence of armed conflict (civilian, current military, or former military)? Do you engage with the government on this issue?

*The government provides special services in such cases. These services are realized both through hotlines and directly in fields. Both during the First Karabakh War, when 20% of Azerbaijan's territory was occupied, and as a result of the liberation of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan during September 27, 2020 – November 10, 2020, the government, as well as NGOs and international organizations continued to provide these activities to civilian and military groups. Especially the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population(MLSPP)[[6]](#footnote-6) as a state agency, specialized NGOs, including UDPO[[7]](#footnote-7), carry out relevant activities in this area.*

* 1. Are there differential services granted to veterans with disabilities on the one hand and civilians with disabilities on the other? Do you engage with thegovernment on this issue?

*The Government renders various services for war veterans and persons who received disabilities. These services are granted mainly on needs-based principle. These services include provision of psychological assistance, provision of financial support and employment, medical treatment (including abroad), provision of prosthetic and orthopedic products, improvement of housing conditions, and provision of housing and cars.*

*The government cooperates with NGOs in providing these services. This cooperation includes monitoring, implementation of services by NGOs, including their direct participation in the implementation of services.*

* 1. Are there veterans groups with disabilities and do they interact with organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) on protection or general disability rights issues?

*Yes. After the First Karabakh War many local NGOs[[8]](#footnote-8) were founded by war veterans and persons with disabilities. There are about 20 such organizations functioning currently. These organizations have been actively involved in eliminating the consequences of the war. In general, UDPO closely cooperates with these organizations. Some of these organizations in fact are members of UDPO.*

1. Please provide information on how civil society, specifically OPDs, are involved in the process to identify and address discrimination and marginalization of persons with disabilities in situations of armed conflict, conflict prevention, humanitarian action, and peace building operations.

*Both persons with disabilities and their organizations participate in various activity forms on these issues. During the 30-year occupation of Azerbaijani lands, regular efforts were made to end the occupation at the national and international levels, to resolve the conflict peacefully, to restore internationally recognized borders, to return IDPs to their homeland, to ensure mutual cooperation, as well as appeals were sent to local and international organizations.*

*These activities continued after the war ended. At present, NGOs mainly carry out the above-mentioned activities. There are restrictions for conducting activities in the liberated areas. All the infrastructure and civil settlements in the formerly occupied territories were completely destroyed and looted. One of the major problems is the mining of all these territories which was done by the occupying army. It must be noted that many fields were deliberately mined by the Armenian army after the signing of the trilateral statement by the leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation of 10 November 2020 which ended the war.*

*As a result of this, a large human force was involved in clearing the mined areas. Government of Azerbaijan and NGOs appealed to the relevant international organizations to urge Armenia to hand over the maps of the mined areas. Unfortunately, Armenia insistently refuses to heed to these humanitarian calls. As a result, innocent people, including civilians and military personnel continue to fall victim, thus the number of persons with disabilities continues growing. Armenia keeps on sending new groups of saboteurs to plant new mines in the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan, and that aggravates the situation even further. For information, since the end of the Second Karabakh War around 100 people got injured and 27people got killed as a result of mine explosions.*

*Overall, at different times, both during the occupation and during the war, as well as after the war, the organizations of persons with disabilities and veterans have made various statements and appeals to international organizations.*

*The Government intends to restore the liberated lands based on “smart village” and “smart city” models which will take into account the needs of all vulnerable people, including people with disabilities.*

Links[[9]](#footnote-9)[[10]](#footnote-10)[[11]](#footnote-11)[[12]](#footnote-12)[[13]](#footnote-13)[[14]](#footnote-14)

Links[[15]](#footnote-15)[[16]](#footnote-16)[[17]](#footnote-17)[[18]](#footnote-18)[[19]](#footnote-19)[[20]](#footnote-20)

1. [www.udpo.az](http://www.udpo.az) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Search results: 50 items matched azerbaijan | International Disability Alliance](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/search/site/azerbaijan) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [Official information portal of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Azerbaijan (fhn.gov.az)](https://www.fhn.gov.az/index.php?eng) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. [Azərbaycan Respublikası Fövqəladə Hallar Nazirliyinin rəsmi internet informasiya portalı (fhn.gov.az)](https://www.fhn.gov.az/?aze/news/xronika/2021/5/18/39371) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. [Homepage (sosial.gov.az)](https://www.sosial.gov.az/en/) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. [www.udpo.az](http://www.udpo.az) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. [Homepage (sosial.gov.az)](https://www.sosial.gov.az/en/)

[Sosial Xidmətlər Agentliyi (udpo.az)](http://udpo.az/read.php?lang=1&type=adver&content=1334)

[http://veteran.gov.az/ - Home](http://veteran.gov.az/en/pages/home/)

[AVMVİB haqqında — www.veteran.az](http://veteran.az/?page_id=2)

[Bakı Müharibə Əlil və Veteranlar İctimai Birliyi - Əsas səhifə | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Bak%C4%B1-M%C3%BCharib%C9%99-%C6%8Flil-v%C9%99-Veteranlar-%C4%B0ctimai-Birliyi-195239410686877/)

[Vətən Naminə - Azərbaycan QMƏVŞAİB (vetennamine.az)](http://vetennamine.az/) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. [Ermənistan silahlı qüvvələrinin Azərbycana qarşı törətdiyi hərbi təcavüz və silahlı hücum haqqında ölkə QHT-lərinin MÜRACİƏTİ (udpo.az)](http://udpo.az/read.php?lang=1&content=2763) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. [Əlil Təşkilatları İttifaqının işğalçı Ermənistanın son günlər Azərbaycan Ordusuna basqın etməsi ilə bağlı BƏYANATI (udpo.az)](http://udpo.az/read.php?lang=1&content=1468) [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. [http://veteran.gov.az/ - Azərbaycan Respublikası Müharibə, Əmək və Silahlı Qüvvələr](http://veteran.gov.az/az/xeber/Az%C9%99rbaycan%20%20Respublikas%C4%B1%20M%C3%BCharib%C9%99%2C%20%C6%8Fm%C9%99k%20v%C9%99%20Silahl%C4%B1%20%20Q%C3%BCvv%C9%99l%C9%99r/) [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. [http://veteran.gov.az/ - Azərbaycan Respublikası Müharibə, Əmək və Silahlı Qüvvələr](http://veteran.gov.az/az/xeber/Az%C9%99rbaycan%20%20Respublikas%C4%B1%20M%C3%BCharib%C9%99%2C%20%C6%8Fm%C9%99k%20v%C9%99%20Silahl%C4%B1%20%20Q%C3%BCvv%C9%99l%C9%99r/) [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. [Tərtərdə mina təhlükəsizliyinə dair tədbir keçirilib - FOTO (qaziler.az)](https://qaziler.az/news/country/104026-terterde-mina-tehlukesizliyine-dair-tedbir-kecirilib) [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. [QHT-lər Ermənistanın mina xəritələrini Azərbaycana verməməsi ilə bağlı beynəlxalq təşkilatlara müraciət etdi](https://www.qht.az/index.php?action=static_detail&static_id=44006) [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. [Ermənistan silahlı qüvvələrinin Azərbycana qarşı törətdiyi hərbi təcavüz və silahlı hücum haqqında ölkə QHT-lərinin MÜRACİƏTİ (udpo.az)](http://udpo.az/read.php?lang=1&content=2763) [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. [Əlil Təşkilatları İttifaqının işğalçı Ermənistanın son günlər Azərbaycan Ordusuna basqın etməsi ilə bağlı BƏYANATI (udpo.az)](http://udpo.az/read.php?lang=1&content=1468) [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. [http://veteran.gov.az/ - Azərbaycan Respublikası Müharibə, Əmək və Silahlı Qüvvələr](http://veteran.gov.az/az/xeber/Az%C9%99rbaycan%20%20Respublikas%C4%B1%20M%C3%BCharib%C9%99%2C%20%C6%8Fm%C9%99k%20v%C9%99%20Silahl%C4%B1%20%20Q%C3%BCvv%C9%99l%C9%99r/) [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. [http://veteran.gov.az/ - Azərbaycan Respublikası Müharibə, Əmək və Silahlı Qüvvələr](http://veteran.gov.az/az/xeber/Az%C9%99rbaycan%20%20Respublikas%C4%B1%20M%C3%BCharib%C9%99%2C%20%C6%8Fm%C9%99k%20v%C9%99%20Silahl%C4%B1%20%20Q%C3%BCvv%C9%99l%C9%99r/) [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. [Tərtərdə mina təhlükəsizliyinə dair tədbir keçirilib - FOTO (qaziler.az)](https://qaziler.az/news/country/104026-terterde-mina-tehlukesizliyine-dair-tedbir-kecirilib) [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. [QHT-lər Ermənistanın mina xəritələrini Azərbaycana verməməsi ilə bağlı beynəlxalq təşkilatlara müraciət etdi](https://www.qht.az/index.php?action=static_detail&static_id=44006) [↑](#footnote-ref-20)