



PRESS RELEASE

Azerbaijan condemns biased and selective attitude by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

Vienna, 01 September 2015 – In response to the Press Release issued by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights with regard to sentencing of Ms. Khadija Ismayilova, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the OSCE condemns the continuation of biased and extremely subjective statements by the OSCE Representative Ms. Dunja Mijatovich and Commissioner Mr. Nils Muiznieks against the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Journalist Khadija Ismayilova was charged with misappropriation and embezzlement, illegal business dealings, tax evasion and abuse of power and sentenced in accordance with the decision of the Court on 01 September 2015 to 7.5 years of imprisonment.

Azerbaijan strongly calls on Ms. D.Mijatovich and Mr. N. Muiznieks to refrain from interfering into work of the Courts and respect the independence of judiciary and rule of law in Azerbaijan. It is regretful that Ms. D.Mijatovich and Mr. N. Muiznieks purposefully attempted to politicize the case of Ms. K. Ismayilova, against the background of their very liberal and sometimes ignorant attitude to violations of freedom of the media in western countries.

Such a one-sided position taken by the Representative D. Mijatovich against Azerbaijan is a sign of the lack of proper control by the OSCE over its executive structures. In this context, Azerbaijan reiterates its call on all OSCE participating States to prevent executive structures from abusing their mandates on human rights allegations.