



**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1144th Meeting of the Permanent Council,
04 May 2017**

In response to the Delegation of the United States of America

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to exercise my right of reply to the Delegation of the United States of America, which touched upon the issue for second time today under agenda item “Current issues”. I found this redundant and inappropriate.

Firstly, I have already responded on substance to the point raised by the US Delegation in my previous statement, and expressed my deep regret over misusing the issue of the media freedom for exerting pressure on participating States, taking selective approach and applying double standards.

Secondly, I reject the very notion of “deep concern” by the USA over the death of Azerbaijani citizen. The United States is an OSCE participating State that applies death penalty in the country, even in some cases without due judicial processes. Concern over this practice has been raised for several times in this format. Yet, the citizens of the USA continue to die in dozens in prison in the United States and we have not heard any concern of the US Delegation in this regard.

Thirdly, I wish to recall that the Delegation of Azerbaijan has raised on previous occasions numerous concerns regarding actions or lack of action by the United States with regard to matters of direct interest of Azerbaijan, as well as its compliance with relevant OSCE commitments. Yet, we have not observed enough willingness on part of the US Delegation to engage in dialogue to address those concerns.

Fourthly, there are numerous publicly available materials on the subject matter referred to by the US Delegation in its statement, which shed light on the situation around the matter and steps taken by the authorities to investigate the incident. It is therefore regretful that the US Delegation raised this issue without any prior consultation or inquires from Azerbaijan and made its judgment on the case. This is by no means a way of engaging into the dialogue in this Organization.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.