



PRESS RELEASE

Unfounded allegations by the OSCE RFoM further undermines trust to this institution

Vienna, 28 January 2015 - In response to the press release distributed by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM) on January 27th, 2015 the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the OSCE expresses its regret over the fact that Ms. Mijatovic yet again expressing her emotions instead of objective assessments of the situation with the freedom of expression in Azerbaijan, acted on the basis of unverified information and without due consultations with the authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The RFoM once again abused the mandate entrusted to her by commenting the incident concerning the Azerbaijani citizen who is currently employed as a lawyer and has nothing common with journalism, except that she works for media NGO.

Respective authorities in the Republic of Azerbaijan have immediately reacted to the incident the moment they were informed about the attempt to attack. Such cases of hooliganism happen all over the world and has nothing related to the situation with freedom of expression in Azerbaijan.

The Mission reiterates that the situation with the freedom of expression in Azerbaijan is not less advanced than in the developed western countries. Unfortunately, the RFoM still pursues selective approach to Azerbaijan. The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the OSCE totally rejects Ms. Mijatovic's press-release which has undermined remaining trust and confidence to the RFoM. We call on the Permanent Mission of Serbia to the OSCE in its capacity as the OSCE Chairmanship in Office and OSCE Secretary General, as structures representing the leadership of Organization, to promptly address the continuing violation of the mandate by RFoM, as well as this OSCE Institution's discriminative attitude against Azerbaijan.