



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԴԵՍՊԱՆՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ

September 1, 2012

Press release

The Embassy of the Republic of Armenia to Canada informs with deep regret that on August 31, 2012 the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice of Hungary announced about its authorization to transfer Ramil Sahib Safarov, an Azerbaijani national imprisoned in Hungary since 19 February 2004 and sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering Gurgen Margaryan, an Armenian national, to Azerbaijan. In adopting such decision, the Ministry referred to the Strasbourg Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons. The transfer of Ramil Sahib Safarov was executed without delay. Furthermore, President of Azerbaijan immediately issued a decree granting pardon to Ramil Sahib Safarov, who already enjoys freedom in Azerbaijan.

Ramil Sahib Safarov was sentenced to life imprisonment by the Courts of Hungary for committing an act of murder by hacking to death Gurgen Margaryan, an Armenian national, while the victim was asleep. Both, Safarov and Margaryan have been visiting Budapest to participate in a NATO Partnership for Peace language training course.

The Government of Hungary has been informed on numerous occasions by the authorities of Armenia about the environment of glorification and justification of the murderous act of Ramil Sahib Safarov, cultivated in Azerbaijan at official level, including the level of the President of Azerbaijan. The Government of Hungary could not have failed to note the numerous public statements of the Azerbaijani officials at different levels to this effect, which should have been sufficient ground for the doubt about the continuation of the enforcement of the sentence in Azerbaijan. Therefore, the Government of Hungary should have foreseen the implications of its decision to transfer Ramil Sahib Safarov, which effectively resulted in the termination of serving justice by a perpetrator of a murderous act. The Government of Hungary therefore shares moral responsibility for sponsoring a grave criminal act. Moreover, the Government of Hungary, at different levels, including the highest, have consistently and up until the last moment assured the Government of Armenia that it will not take any steps whatsoever, which would result in the termination of serving justice by the perpetrator of a heinous murder and explicitly excluded any option for the execution of the transfer. The manner, in which the Government of Hungary acted in respect to this matter, is a cause for a deep regret.

As President Sargsyan noted “there is nothing to say about Azerbaijan, that country speaks about itself with the actions it takes”, but with their joint actions the authorities of Hungary and Azerbaijan opened the door for the recurrence of such crimes. The slaughterers hereafter are well aware of impunity they can enjoy for the murder driven by ethnic, racial or religious hatred.

The Republic of Armenia can not tolerate that and the Armenian Nation will never forgive that. Armenia considers the above decision of the Government of Hungary as an unfriendly act, undermining the good cooperative relations between Armenia and Hungary. Yesterday the President of the Republic of Armenia H.E. Serzh Sargsyan announced and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia subsequently notified the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary about the decision of the Government of Armenia to suspend diplomatic relations and all contacts with Hungary.

Armenia expects that the international community will react promptly to these concerning and unacceptable developments, which have undermined respect for justice, human rights and human dignity.