



Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

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STATEMENT

by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

According to the information disseminated by Armenian media, so called “Parliamentary elections” of the separatist regime in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan are to be held on June 19, 2005.

The Azerbaijan side has repeatedly given principal legal assessment of such provocative actions and states again that attempts to impose the *fait accompli* have no prospects.

Holding “elections” in the conditions of territorial seizure and ethnic cleanings contradicts the norms and principles of International Law and the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and has no legal effect.

Such actions undertaken by the Armenian side don’t comply with the spirit of negotiations, in the framework of which positive hopes have been strengthened recently.

Sustainable peace cannot be achieved without normalization of life and ensuring peaceful coexistence and cooperation of the Azerbaijani and Armenian communities of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In this regard, the Azerbaijan side supports calls of the international community vis-à-vis setting up direct contacts between the communities and carrying out comprehensive confidence-building measures with a view to overcome hostility, achieving stability and mutual understanding. Such an inter-community dialogue will contribute to establishing relations between Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians and Azerbaijan population of this region returning back to their permanent places of residence, create necessary prerequisites for involving all parts of the region’s population into lawful, peaceful and democratic process, including also formation of legitimate regional authorities at all levels.

June 14, 2005