**POSITION PAPER **

**Country:** Republic of Azerbaijan
**Committee:** Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM)
**Topic:** Accomplishing Freedom of Press and Protection of Journalists Within Conflict Zones

**Introduction**

Republic of Azerbaijan defends the freedom of press in some boundaries. Also, the Azerbaijani Government is always aware of the threats in conflict zones and takes some precautions to prevent any kind of deaths and injuries. Nowadays, the Republic of Azerbaijan promises to give more importance to these vital topics.

**Freedom of Press**

Freedom of press always presents importance to raise people’s awareness about the events happening around the world. However, the Republic of Azerbaijan believes that press can pose danger by leaking classified documents. During the First Nagorno-Karabakh War, the Azerbaijani Army has faced some attacks and bombardments because of the journalists leaking the vital photographs of the structure and location of Azerbaijani positions. Since then, the officials have taken measures in order to prevent possible attacks and deaths.

**Protection of Journalists Within Conflict Zones**

Journalists’ role in conflict zones is totally indispensable since they are the announcers of featured news. They illuminate the truth lying behind the massacres, genocides and constant struggle of refugees. However, too many journalists have died or been injured in clashes over the years. To prevent these threats some security precautions should be taken. Also, the authorities in those zones should never leave journalists alone in the middle of a clash.

**Azerbaijan’s Policies**

Since the Republic of Azerbaijan was founded in 1991, the authorities have taken many steps about freedom of the press. Here is a list of steps taken:

1. Closure of the Soviet censorship department “Glavlit”,
2. Constitutional guarantee for the press in 1995,
3. Release of the Mass Media Law in 1999.

**Conclusion**

As stated in the parts above, the Republic of Azerbaijan highlights that it is a need to keep press away from intelligence services, army movements and top secret files. Also, the Government is always ready to protect press members in any kind of conflicts. Finally, as the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, we will try to find journalist-friendly and applicable solutions in terms of Geneva Conventions.

**Bibliography**

Ratified conventions by Azerbaijan.

<https://guide-humanitarian-law.org/content/conventions/by-country/14-azerbaijan/>

Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).

<https://cpj.org>

Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nagorno-Karabakh_conflict>