

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations

GENEVA

Ref: 0145/12/22/23

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and with reference to the latter's request dated 7 February 2022, has the honour to transmit herewith the information of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the quadrennial analytical report on conscientious objection to military service, to be submitted to the Human Rights Council 's fiftieth session in June 2022.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

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Geneva, 21 march 2022

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights GENEVA

INFORMATION

of the State Committee on Religious Associations of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the inclusion in the four-year analytical report to be prepared in accordance with the resolution of the UN Human Rights Council on "Conscientious Objection to Military Service"

Legislation on military position and military service in our country consists of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Military Position and Military Service", other normative legal acts and international agreements to which the Republic of Azerbaijan is a party.

Part II of Article 76 of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Article 3 of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Military Position and Military Service" stipulate that if the beliefs of citizens contradict actual military service, actual military service may be replaced by alternative service.

It should be noted that in 2001, the Council of Europe demanded that our country adopt a law on alternative military service. In this regard, a law was prepared and submitted to the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The draft envisages that an Azerbaijani citizen who is obliged to perform active military service (based on both religious and non-religious views) has the right to alternative service if he is unable to perform this duty. However, as a result of Armenia's policy of aggression against Azerbaijani for nearly 30 years, 20 percent of our territories have been occupied and the Azerbaijani Armed Forces are composed of conscripts, the relevant law on alternative service has not been discussed and adopted.

We state that although a part of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan was liberated as a result of counter-offensive military operations launched by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2020 to prevent provocations on the line of contact of the Armenian Armed Forces, peace has not been fully achieved. However, we hope that the Government of Azerbaijan will take appropriate steps in connection with the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Alternative Military Service".