



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia

at the
30th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Azerbaijan

Geneva, 15 May 2018

Mr President,

We note with appreciation that the Government of Azerbaijan is committed to the principles of the universality, interdependence and indivisibility of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and their protection.

With the state's international commitments in mind, national legislation should be constantly improved and brought into line with international standards.

We regret some reports that the number of qualified lawyers is alarmingly low and that the Azerbaijani Bar Association lacks independence. Reported harassment and use of disciplinary sanctions against independent lawyers is a cause for serious concern, since the threats are used to discourage lawyers from taking on politically sensitive cases and from making appeals.

In this respect, Slovenia would like to make the following recommendation:

- All governmental authorities, in co-operation and consultation with the Bar Association and with lawyers themselves, should take steps to ensure that lawyers are protected from intimidation and harassment or other improper interference in their work.

And additionally we recommend to:

- Immediate and unconditional release of all persons arbitrarily detained for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, including Ilgar Mammadov in order to respect a decision of the European Court of Human Rights.

I thank you!