



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
TO THE OSCE

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Statement

on the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances as delivered by the Delegation of Armenia at the 1533rd meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

11 September 2025

Mr. Chairman,

The Delegation of Armenia thanks the Delegation of Denmark for raising, on behalf of the European Union, the current issue on the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances.

The UN Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance clearly affirms that any act of enforced disappearance is an affront to human dignity. It condemns such acts as a denial of the principles of the UN Charter and a grave violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, further recognizing their systematic practice as a crime against humanity.

Within the OSCE framework, the adoption of the 2020 Ministerial Council Decision on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment underscored the recognition of enforced disappearance as a serious human rights violation.

Armenia, guided by its commitment to this struggle, has signed and ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. This Convention, along with other core human rights instruments, reaffirms the inherent right of every individual to be free from enforced disappearance, as well as the right of victims and their families to truth, justice, and adequate reparation.

In its statement on the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia “reaffirmed its commitment to the right of families to know the fate of their loved ones and to ensuring that justice is served in relation to those persons.”

In its most recent report, the UN Working Group on Enforced Disappearances recalled that the *jus cogens* nature of the prohibition of enforced disappearance gives rise to obligations for all States to adopt all necessary measures to ensure that such violations do not remain unpunished, either by exercising their jurisdiction to apply their domestic law and international law to prosecute and, when applicable, punish those responsible, or by collaborating with other States that do so.

In conclusion, we reaffirm our strong commitment to the prevention and eradication of enforced disappearances, as well as to combatting impunity for those responsible for, or complicit in such crimes. All obstacles should be overcome to clarify the fate and whereabouts of persons subjected to enforced or involuntary disappearances.

Thank you.