



EaP ANP Statement

On Illegal Actions of RA National Security Service Against Hrayr Manukyan

A controversial audio record of a conversation between a representative of Armenian National Security Service (NSS) and EaP Armenian National Platform member “Civic Initiative” NGO head Hrayr Manukyan, who at the same time is a journalist at AraratNews website and has been recently elected a board member at “Herritage” party, was recently published by Armenian media outlets. The audio record dates back at June 30, 2014 and contains a full conversation wherein the NSS employee tries to recruit Hrayr Manukyan and employs illegal methods in doing so, i.e. he intimidates Hrayr Manukyan and threatens the wellbeing of Hrayr and his family members and supporters when Hrayr Manukyan rejects the offer to work for NSS which is his right secured by RA Constitution.

Hrayr Manukyan has already reported the illegal actions of NSS to Prosecutor’s Office and the Human Rights Defender of RA.

RA NSS and other liable state agents should be reminded that according to RA Constitution the State is to ensure human rights and freedoms protection based on the RA Constitution and Codes, in accordance with principles and norms of international law.

The State shall be limited by fundamental human rights and freedoms as a directly applicable right (Article 3 of RA Constitution). Additionally, the admission to a public service is a right of the citizen which constitutes the private life of a person. Any kind of State interference into the private life and freedom of expression of a citizen must be condemned.

According to international norms the State is liable not to violate fundamental human rights and freedoms as well as to prevent them from being violated by thirds parties, including officials and individuals.

Finally, the RA National Security Service is meant to protect and ensure the security and interests of RA citizens instead of being a threat to those. State agencies should serve the Republic of Armenia instead of foolishly executing the political orders of a group of individuals or one individual in the government.

Armenian National Platform of Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum strictly condemns Armenian NSS illegal actions against Hrayr Manukyan and demands from the RA authorities to:

- Reveal the NSS employee who committed the illegal actions, together with those in charge who assigned him the task and bring them to justice
- To take appropriate measures to ensure the security of Hrayr Manukyan and his family members
- To change the current work style of NSS and stop the faulty practice of pressuring people to work for NSS

July 18, 2014

Yerevan

Armenian National Platform of Eastern Partnership