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PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

2203/1548/2026

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia 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 has the honour to refer to the communication transmitted by the Office of the High Commissioner, dated 11 May 2026 on behalf of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; and the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers.

In this regard, the Permanent Mission has the honour to transmit, herewith, the Non-Paper on the Questions Raised in the UN Special Procedures Communication, in response to the above-mentioned communication.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia 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.

Enclosed 31 pages.

Geneva, 09 July 2026

[redacted]

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Geneva

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NON-PAPER
ON THE QUESTIONS RAISED IN UN SPECIAL PROCEDURES COMMUNICATION
(*AL ARM 1/2026)*

The Republic of Armenia remains firmly committed to ensuring that all criminal investigations are anchored in the strict rule of law and statutory compliance. In close alignment with our national legislation, every procedural action is designed to safeguard fundamental rights enshrined in the Armenian Constitution and guarantee due process for all participants.

Furthermore, our judicial and law enforcement reforms are continually upgraded to meet Armenia's extensive international commitments, particularly those outlined under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights and other relevant standard-setting international treaties ratified by Armenia, as well as international case law precedents.

It should be noted that some of the questions are based on allegations of various violations, the existence of which has not yet been established and remains subject to ongoing investigations and judicial proceedings conducted in accordance with the principles of due process and the applicable procedural safeguards.

By integrating international best practices into our operational frameworks, we have strengthened the transparency, predictability and integrity of the investigative process. This ongoing systematic refinement ensures that justice is administered both effectively and equitably across the entire system.

Ultimately, these targeted efforts are aimed at reinforcing public trust in our institutions while solidifying Armenia's standing as a strong democracy.

1. Please provide any additional information and/or comment(s) you may have on the above-mentioned allegations.

The joint communication by a number of mandate holders of the United Nations Special Procedures (hereinafter referred to as the Communication) refers to two distinct cases, in respect of which criminal proceedings were initiated separately, with a time difference of about 9 months, and concern different facts.

The first proceeding concerns the events of 12 June 2024 near the specially protected area of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, including allegations of disproportionate use of force by police officers. Criminal proceedings in that regard were initiated on 14 June 2024.

The second proceeding concerns alleged preparation for terrorism and preparation to usurp state power. It was initiated on 18 March 2025 on the basis of factual information obtained through separate operational-investigative measures carried out from July 2024 to March 2025.

Although the operational-investigative measures in the second matter were carried out after the events of 12 June 2024, the two proceedings are based on different factual circumstances, concern different alleged conduct, involve different legal qualifications, and were initiated as separate criminal proceedings. Accordingly, they should not be treated as a single interconnected case.

Concerning the first proceeding, it should be stated that during the rally organized on Baghramyan Avenue in Yerevan on June 12, 2024, a number of participants tried to enter the specially protected area of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia. Police officers repeatedly voiced legitimate demands and warnings to maintain public order, refrain from unlawful actions, and not obstruct police officers from exercising their powers. However, certain participants of the demonstration did not comply with the aforementioned legal requirements and calls to maintain public order and continued to demonstrate unlawful behavior, including throwing various objects at police officers, damaging property and committing acts typical of mass disorders, thereby creating a real threat to public safety and public order.

Criminal proceedings were initiated in relation to the incident under Part 1 of Article 327 (participation in mass disorders) and Part 2 of Article 297 of the RA Criminal Code (hooliganism committed by a group of people). During the preliminary investigation of the aforementioned criminal proceedings, public criminal prosecutions were initiated against 16 persons under Part 2 of Article 297 and against 1 person under Part 1 of Article 327 of the Code. Criminal proceedings were sent to court with an approved indictment on July 31, 2024 and September 14, 2024, respectively.

In addition, on June 12, 2024, in order to determine the legality of the use of force by the police during the attempt to avert a break-in at the specially protected area of the National Assembly, criminal proceedings No. 69117224 were initiated on June 14, 2024 in accordance with Article 441, Part 2, Paragraphs 1 and 4 of the Criminal Code.

Specifically, during the pre-trial investigation, information was obtained from the special-purpose units of the Police Troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (now the Police Guard of the Ministry of Internal Affairs) concerning the commanders of the special-purpose team personnel, who were summoned for questioning and testified that on the specified day, while on duty, they were positioned at the rear of the police formation. Noticing that the participants in the mass disorder were trying to break through the police and invade the specially protected area by inciting violence, pushing citizens in the front rows toward the police barrier, and trying to break the police chain, the officers went out in front of the police line and carried out the service on the spot. A number of participants in the gathering failed to comply with lawful police instructions, as a result of which some of them were subjected to administrative arrest. The situation at the site became tense due to the actions of some participants, who subsequently engaged in mass disorders. Consequently, numerous citizens were detained on charges related to these actions. During both administrative and criminal arrests, some citizens did not obey the demands of the officers of their subordinate unit, including demands for their arrest, and tried to hide behind other participants of the gathering. In response, proportionate physical force was used in accordance with established procedures.

Sometimes, other participants of the gathering tried to free the arrested citizens from them, in particular, grabbing them and dragging them behind the participants of the gathering, which led to scuffles between the citizens and the participants of the gathering. All the arrested citizens were transferred to the rear of the police ranks, after which they were handed over to other police officers, who transferred the arrested citizens to territorial departments. The questioned officers stated that, in their presence, no excessive force, ill-treatment, or other unlawful conduct was used against the arrested persons after they had been brought under police control and transferred to the rear of the police cordon. They also stated that they were not aware of any such incidents. At the same time, the investigation is continuing to verify all relevant circumstances, including allegations of injuries sustained during the arrests and the lawfulness, necessity and proportionality of any force used. As a result of the above-mentioned actions during the arrest, it is not excluded that some citizens may have been injured as a result of the proportionate physical force used.

During the investigation of the criminal proceedings, video recordings of the incident were provided by both the victims, other persons, and police officers. Upon examination of these materials, it was revealed that on June 12, 2024, in front of the specially protected area, the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, at the beginning of Demirchyan Street in Yerevan, an enhanced police service was carried out by the police, during which a rally was held by numerous citizens in the same section of Baghramyan Street.

During the rally, organizer Bagrat Galstanyan called on police officers to remove their assigned helmets, which were a means of protection. Then the latter and a group of other citizens demanded that police officers open Demirchyan Street and allow them to go to a specially protected area, the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia.

The demand was rejected by the police, after which a group of rally participants tried to open the police wall twice by actively pushing the other rally participants in the front rows towards the police wall, but after the police forces regrouped, they were able to stop the attempts to break through. Police officers [redacted] and [redacted] periodically made calls over the loudspeaker to stop illegal actions, and they also periodically informed that in case of continuing illegal actions, physical force and special means would be used in accordance with the law. Afterwards, various types of objects and items were thrown at police officers by the rally participants. The participants of the gathering tore down the fence at the edge of the "Lovers" park adjacent to Demirchyan Street and tried to bypass the police forces through the park and invade the specially protected area, the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, after which the police officers used sound and light grenades, after which the escalation was contained.

Evidentiary and other procedural actions continue to be taken to clarify all the circumstances in the criminal proceedings.

2. Please explain whether the alleged excessive use of force by police at the peaceful protests against participants and journalists, described in this letter, has been investigated in line with international standards and indicate the outcomes of those investigations. Please also explain which measures have been taken to prevent their re-occurrence, including appropriate training for security forces.

As noted above, the authorities maintain that the use of force by the police complied with the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality. Without prejudice to that position, the final determination as to whether the force used exceeded the limits established by law can only be made through the competent criminal proceedings.

The allegations concerning the use of force by police officers during the protest actions of 12 June 2024 in Baghramyan Avenue (Yerevan) have been the subject of an independent criminal investigation initiated promptly after the incident.

On **14 June 2024**, the Investigative Committee (Department for Investigation of Torture and Crimes Involving Violence Committed by Officials through Abuse or Excess of Authority of the General Department for Investigation of Particular Important Cases) instituted criminal proceedings **under Article 441 part 2, clauses 1 and 4 of the Criminal Code** concerning alleged abuse or excess of official powers involving violence and the use of special means by public officials. Subsequently, these proceedings were joined with additional criminal cases initiated following complaints submitted by individuals alleging injuries arising from the same events under Paragraph 2 (clauses 1 and 4) of Article 441, Part 2, clause 1 of Article 253 and Part 2 (paragraph 5) of Article 450 of the RA Criminal Code *(abuse or excess of official or service powers, or influence arising therefrom, committed by a group of public officials acting by prior agreement through the use of threat of violence; larceny committed by a group of persons acting by prior agreement; and torture committed against a minor).*

The preliminary investigation has been comprehensive and remains ongoing. To date:

- 104 persons have been recognized as victims, and were interrogated;
- More than 100 witnesses, including assembly participants and senior police officials, have been interrogated;
- crime scene inspections have been conducted;
- medical documentation has been collected from relevant healthcare institutions;
- forensic medical examinations have been ordered and completed with respect to all victims;
- fragments removed from injured persons and items of clothing have been seized;
- comprehensive forensic examinations, including explosive-technical, trace and forensic chemical analyses, have been commissioned; and
- extensive video recordings submitted by victims, members of the public and police officers have been collected and examined.

Relevant investigative measures are being taken to review all the circumstances concerning the events of 12 June 2024.

Trainings for security forces:

As part of broader measures aimed at strengthening compliance with human rights standards and preventing future violations, continuous professional training has been provided to police officers, judges, prosecutors and investigators:

Between 2025 and 2026, the Educational Complex of the Ministry of Internal Affairs provided training on the "Standardized Operational Procedure for the Use of Force by Police Officers" to 7,000 Police Guard officers and 9,600 personnel from various other police services.

The 2025 annual training programme **for judges and judicial candidates** included the following courses:

- **"Contemporary Issues of Constitutional Justice in the Republic of Armenia"**, which covered the limits of permissible interference with fundamental rights and the development of analytical frameworks for assessing the lawfulness and proportionality of restrictions on rights. A total of **177 judges and judicial candidates** participated in this training.
- For judges specializing in administrative law, the course **"Current Issues in the Application of the European Court of Human Rights' Case-law in Administrative Cases"** addressed the limits of permissible interference with Convention rights, the applicable assessment criteria and methods of interpretation in light of the European Court of Human Rights' jurisprudence. **36 judges and judicial candidates** completed this course.
- For judges specializing in criminal law, the course **"The Case-law of the European Court of Human Rights in Criminal Cases, the Practice of International Courts and International Cooperation"** examined the rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, their application in domestic legislation and the procedures available under the Optional Protocol. **58 judges and judicial candidates** completed this training.

- Within the criminal specialization programme, an additional course entitled **"Protection of Human Rights during Pre-Trial Criminal Proceedings"** addressed the right to liberty and security of person and safeguards against arbitrary deprivation of liberty. **28 judges and judicial candidates** participated in this course.

The 2025 annual training programme for **prosecutors** included:

- **"Contemporary Issues in Ensuring Equality and the Prohibition of Discrimination"**, covering international human rights treaties relating to equality and non-discrimination. **52 prosecutors** participated.
- **"Current Issues of Criminal Law in the Republic of Armenia"**, which included training on the rights guaranteed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, their application in domestic legislation and the procedures available under the Optional Protocol. Within this programme, the course **"Current Issues of Criminal Procedure in the Republic of Armenia"** specifically addressed legal safeguards relating to judicial review of the lawfulness of arrest. **199 prosecutors** completed these courses.

The 2025 annual training programme for **investigators** included:

- **"Issues in the Qualification of Criminal Offences, including Human Trafficking and Crimes against Constitutional Rights and Freedoms, as well as Crimes against Justice"**, which covered the qualification of offences against constitutional rights and freedoms and crimes against the administration of justice. **76 investigators** participated.

- **"Application of the Case-law of the Court of Cassation and the Decisions of the Constitutional Court in Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure"**, which focused on the application of the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court and the Court of Cassation in criminal law and criminal procedure. **68 investigators** completed this training.

Other measures to address the issue raised have been described in detail in the answer to question 7

3. Please provide information about the factual and legal bases for the arrests, detention and charging of the above-mentioned individuals and explain how these actions comply with Armenia's obligations under international human rights law.

The arrests, criminal prosecutions and preventive measures imposed in the criminal proceedings concerning preparation for terrorism and preparation to usurp state power were based exclusively on evidence (results of operative intelligence and secret investigative measures, in particular internal surveillance and wiretapping) obtained through lawful investigative activities and were carried out in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code and the international human rights obligations of the Republic of Armenia.

Criminal Proceeding No. 58207025 was initiated on **18 March 2025** by the General Department for Investigation of Crimes Against the State, the Foundations of Constitutional Order and Public Security of the Investigative Committee under **Paragraph 1 of Article 43 in conjunction with Part 1 of Article 308 of the Criminal Code (preparation for terrorism)** and **Paragraph 1 of Article 43 in conjunction with Paragraph 1 of Article 419 of the Criminal Code (preparation for usurpation of power)**.

Following an extensive preliminary investigation involving investigative, procedural and evidentiary measures, the supervising prosecutor initiated public criminal prosecution on **25 June 2025** against Vazgen (Bagrat) Galstanyan and other individuals on the basis of factual information indicating preparation for the commission of the above-mentioned offences. Criminal prosecutions of the same nature have been initiated against Movses Sharbatyan, Hayk Shahnazaryan, Tigran Topalyan, Lidia Mantashyan, Hrayr Hakobyan, Karo Okumushyan, Artur Sargsyan, Igor Sargsyan, Ara Rostomyan, Arsen Ghazaryan, Arman Israyelyan, Aghvan Arshakyan, Armen Aleksanyan, Mihran Makhsudyan, Davit Galstyan, Artur Sargsyan and Vahagn Chakhalyan.

According to the evidence collected during the investigation, (results of operative intelligence and secret investigative measures, in particular internal surveillance and wiretapping), for the purpose of carrying out their criminal objective of seizing the power in the Republic of Armenia, Vazgen Galstanyan and other members of the criminal group planned to commit terrorism, namely socially dangerous acts involving the danger of depriving civilians of life, causing serious or moderately serious injury to health, causing substantial property damage, and producing other grave consequences, thereby pursuing the aim of terrorizing the population, creating an uncontrollable situation among the population, disrupting the functioning of public authorities, and coercing the persons holding public authority in the Republic of Armenia in accordance with the procedure established by the Constitution to relinquish such power.

The investigation indicates that the group allegedly undertook extensive preparations, including:

- recruiting more than 2,000 persons into organized strike groups;
- identifying strategic locations within the city of Yerevan and obtaining operational information concerning critical infrastructure;
- acquiring thousands of pyrotechnic devices intended for use in explosions;
- obtaining metal spike devices ("caltrops") suitable for damaging vehicle tires and paralyzing traffic movement;
- acquiring paints, oils and other materials intended to facilitate coordinated disruptive actions;
- storing the mentioned items in preparation for coordinated operations; and
- conducting meetings with group leaders concerning implementation of the alleged plan, in particular assuring them that the planned actions were the only measures to gain success and instructing them to take measures aimed at strengthening the group members' alertness and readiness to carry out assigned tasks at any cost.

The alleged offences (to terrorize the population, disrupt the functioning of public authorities and unlawfully seize constitutional power) were prevented at the preparatory stage following operational measures, in particular internal surveillance and wiretapping, carried out by the National Security Service.

The criminal charges do not concern the political, religious or ideological views of the accused, nor their participation in peaceful assemblies, public debate or lawful political activity. The initiation of criminal prosecution was based solely on evidence allegedly demonstrating preparation of violent criminal offences against the constitutional order, rather than the exercise of rights protected under the Constitution or international human rights treaties.

The decision to arrest particular suspects and to apply preventive measures was taken exclusively in accordance with judicial procedures prescribed by Armenian law. Applications submitted by the investigator were examined by the competent courts, which independently assessed the existence of statutory grounds, including procedural risks and the seriousness of the alleged offences. By the relevant decisions of the First Instance Criminal Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan, detention for a period of two months was imposed as a preventive measure. Before the expiry of that two-month period of detention, the materials of the criminal proceeding, together with the indictment, were submitted to the supervising prosecutor, which further demonstrates that the proceeding was conducted expeditiously and without undue delay.

The criminal prosecution of Member of Parliament Artur Lavrent Sargsyan likewise complied with the special constitutional and legislative guarantees applicable to members of the National Assembly. His criminal prosecution and deprivation of liberty were carried out only after obtaining the consent of the National Assembly, in accordance with the procedure established by domestic legislation.

The preventive measures imposed throughout the proceedings—including detention, house arrest, administrative supervision, travel restrictions and bail—were applied exclusively pursuant to judicial decisions, were subject to periodic judicial review and pursued legitimate aims recognized under both domestic and international law, including safeguarding public safety, protecting the constitutional order, preventing the commission of serious offences and ensuring the proper administration of justice. In every case, the necessity and proportionality of the measures were individually assessed by the competent courts in light of the circumstances of each accused person.

Moreover, the application of preventive measures evolved during the proceedings in accordance with changes in procedural risks. As those risks diminished, more restrictive measures were replaced by less restrictive alternatives. At the time of drafting this response, only 5 defendants remain under house arrest, while the remaining defendants are subject to alternative preventive measures, including administrative supervision, travel restrictions and bail. In several instances, the prosecution itself supported replacing detention with less restrictive measures after reassessing the circumstances of the individual defendants. This demonstrates that preventive measures were not punitive in nature but were continuously reviewed and adjusted in accordance with the principle of proportionality.

Throughout the proceedings, the accused have been afforded all procedural guarantees provided by the Constitution, the Criminal Procedure Code and Armenia's international obligations. These guarantees include the right to legal counsel, access to the case materials, the right to challenge evidence, to present evidence in their defense, to participate fully in court proceedings, to appeal procedural decisions and preventive measures, and to seek judicial review of alleged violations of their rights.

Finally, the Republic of Armenia reiterates that the principle of the presumption of innocence fully applies to all accused persons. The criminal proceedings are currently pending before the competent courts, and any determination regarding the admissibility of evidence, the factual substantiation of the charges or the criminal responsibility of the accused may be made only by an independent and impartial court through a final judicial decision that has entered into legal force.

The relevant legal grounds are set out in ***Annex 1*** *to the present information.*

4. Please indicate how the terrorist offences alleged against members of "Holy Struggle" satisfy the definition of terrorism as properly defined according to international standards, including the requirement of legality.

The offences of terrorism under Armenian criminal legislation are defined in a manner consistent with the principle of legality and with the Republic of Armenia's international obligations, including the relevant universal counter-terrorism instruments and the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism.

In particular, Article 308 of the Criminal Code establishes the offence of terrorism by requiring both objective and subjective elements that are consistent with internationally recognized definitions of terrorism:

The offence requires the commission of an explosion, arson, or other publicly dangerous acts, or the seizure or occupation of buildings, means of transport, communication facilities, or other infrastructure, where such conduct creates a danger of causing death or serious bodily injury, substantial property damage, or other grave consequences.

The perpetrator must act with the specific purpose of terrorizing the population or a part thereof, disrupting the functioning of public authorities, or coercing public officials or other protected persons to perform or refrain from performing particular acts. The provision also expressly encompasses acts regarded as terrorism under applicable international treaties.

Accordingly, Armenian legislation does not criminalize peaceful political activity, criticism of public authorities, participation in demonstrations, religious activities, or the exercise of freedom of expression or assembly as acts of terrorism. Criminal liability arises only where the constituent legal elements prescribed by Article 308 and the related provisions of the Criminal Code are satisfied.

The Republic of Armenia further notes that, during the preparation of the current Criminal Code and its commentary, expert assistance was provided within the framework of the joint European Union and Council of Europe project, "Support to Criminal Justice Reforms and Harmonization of the Application of European Standards in Armenia." The criminal law provisions on terrorism were developed with due regard to European standards and international best practices, further confirming their compatibility with the principle of legality and applicable international standards.

The criminal proceedings concerning the members of the "Holy Struggle" movement were not initiated because of the movement's political platform, religious affiliation, criticism of governmental policies, or organization of peaceful assemblies. Rather, the criminal prosecution was initiated following a lengthy preliminary investigation that produced evidence allegedly indicating preparation for offences meeting the legal elements established under Articles 308 and 419 of the Criminal Code.

According to the evidence collected during the investigation, (results of operative intelligence and secret investigative measures, in particular internal surveillance and wiretapping), the accused allegedly prepared to commit acts capable of endangering the lives and physical integrity of civilians, causing significant property damage, disrupting the functioning of state institutions, and intimidating the population, with the objective of unlawfully seizing state power. The investigation further alleges that these preparations included the recruitment of more than 2,000 persons into coordinated strike groups, the acquisition of pyrotechnic devices intended for explosions, the procurement of metal spike devices designed to disable vehicles, the collection of information concerning critical infrastructure, the identification of strategic targets, and other coordinated preparatory acts. According to the investigation, these actions constituted preparation for terrorism and preparation to usurp state power within the meaning of Armenian criminal legislation.

The legal characterization of the alleged conduct therefore derives not from the identity of the accused or the political objectives they publicly advocated, but from the factual circumstances established during the investigation and the alleged preparation of violent acts directed against the constitutional order and public safety.

At the same time, the criminal proceedings remain pending before the competent court. The factual allegations advanced by the prosecution, the admissibility and sufficiency of the evidence, and the correct legal characterization of the alleged conduct are currently subject to judicial examination. In accordance with the Constitution and its international human rights obligations, all accused persons continue to benefit from the presumption of innocence until their guilt is established by a final judgment of an independent and impartial court.

5. Please indicate how the criminal proceedings, including bail restrictions, satisfy the requirements of due process and fair trial and the presumption of innocence.

The Criminal Procedure Code, which entered into force in 2022, significantly expanded the range of preventive measures alternative to detention, with the aim of minimizing deprivation of liberty during criminal proceedings and ensuring that detention is applied only where strictly necessary. The available alternative preventive measures include house arrest, administrative supervision, bail, suspension from office, prohibition on leaving the country, a guarantee, educational supervision, and military supervision.

Although Armenian legislation provides for a broad range of measures of restraint and the authorities have undertaken extensive reforms aimed at reducing the use of deprivation of liberty, this does not imply that detention can no longer be justified in individual cases. The principle of minimizing the use of detention does not require its abolition, it requires that detention be applied only where it is strictly necessary, proportionate and justified by the specific circumstances of the case. In such situations, the competent court may conclude that detention constitutes the only appropriate measure of restraint capable of achieving the legitimate aims of the proceedings.

The same approach is reflected in judicial practice with regard to alternative measures of restraint. Administrative restrictions and other non-custodial measures are regularly applied during pre-trial proceedings whenever the courts consider them sufficient and proportionate in the circumstances of the case. Accordingly, the courts make use of the full range of measures of restraint provided by law, selecting the least restrictive measure capable of addressing the relevant procedural risks on the basis of an individualized assessment of each case.»

As mentioned above, with regard to the defendants concerned by the present communication, the preventive measures applied were subject to continuous judicial review and progressively evolved from more restrictive to less restrictive measures. While some defendants were initially placed in pre-trial detention, where justified by the circumstances of the case and the procedural risks identified by the competent court, detention was subsequently replaced, where appropriate, with alternative preventive measures, including bail and administrative supervision. The application, continuation, modification, or replacement of preventive measures was decided exclusively by the competent courts on the basis of the applicable legal framework and the individual circumstances of each defendant.

The accused have been afforded the guarantees of a fair trial throughout the proceedings. In particular, after the pre-trial investigation all the materials of the criminal case have been submitted to the defence, court hearings have been scheduled at regular intervals, generally on a weekly basis, in order to ensure that the case is examined within a reasonable time. Hearings have been conducted in courtrooms capable of accommodating the parties, members of the public, and media representatives, thereby ensuring the public nature and transparency of the proceedings while avoiding unnecessary delays.

At all stages of the proceedings, the rights guaranteed by the Constitution of Armenia, the Criminal Procedure Code, and the international obligations of the Republic of Armenia have been respected. These guarantees include the right to be informed promptly and in detail of the charges, the right to legal assistance, the right to prepare and present a defence, the right to examine and challenge the evidence presented by the prosecution, the right to present their own evidences, the right to participate in the examination of the evidence, the principle of equality of arms before the court, the right to submit motions and objections, and the right to appeal judicial decisions in accordance with the law.

The presumption of innocence has been respected throughout the proceedings. No defendant has been regarded as guilty prior to conviction, and any determination of criminal responsibility may be made only by an independent and impartial court through a final judicial decision that has entered into force.

The restrictions imposed on the rights to liberty, freedom of movement, private life, freedom of association, freedom of assembly, and freedom of expression were prescribed by law, imposed exclusively on the basis of decisions of a competent court, and pursued legitimate aims, including the protection of public safety, the constitutional order, the prevention of alleged serious and particularly serious crimes, and the proper administration of criminal proceedings. In every case, the necessity and proportionality of the restrictions were individually assessed by the competent court, taking into account the specific circumstances of the case, the evidence obtained during the proceedings, and the procedural risks identified.

Accordingly, the criminal proceedings, including the application of bail and other preventive measures, have been conducted in accordance with the requirements of due process, ensuring the guarantees of a fair trial and respecting the presumption of innocence. The final assessment of the validity of the charges, the admissibility and credibility of the evidence, and the guilt or innocence of the defendants remains within the exclusive competence of the independent judiciary.

6. Please explain how the administrative restrictions imposed on members of Holy Struggle are consistent with international law, including the rights to liberty, freedom of movement, privacy and freedoms of association, peaceful assembly and expression.

Administrative supervision is not a measure of administrative liability, but an alternative preventive measure provided for by the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia. It is applied exclusively by a competent court, on the basis of an individual judicial decision, and only where the statutory grounds established by the Criminal Procedure Code are met.

According to Article 116 of the Criminal Procedure Code, a preventive measure may be applied only where there is reasonable suspicion that the accused has committed the offence attributed to him or her, and where such a measure is necessary to prevent the accused from absconding, committing a crime, or failing to fulfil obligations imposed by the Criminal Procedure Code or by a court decision. When selecting a preventive measure, the court must take into account all relevant circumstances that may ensure or hinder the lawful conduct of the accused.

Article 124 of the Criminal Procedure Code defines administrative supervision as a restriction on the freedom of movement and action of the accused. Under this measure, the accused may be required to register with the competent authority specified in the court decision no more than three times per week. By court decision, additional limited restrictions may also be imposed, including restrictions on changing the place of residence, visiting certain places, communicating with certain persons, or leaving the place of residence during specified hours. In imposing such restrictions, the court is required to take into account the personal circumstances of the accused, including health, work and study conditions.

The Criminal Procedure Code, which entered into force in 2022, substantially expanded the range of alternatives to detention, including administrative supervision, house arrest, bail and other preventive measures. This reform was aimed at reducing the use of pre-trial detention and ensuring that restrictions on liberty and movement are applied only where necessary and proportionate. As in the case of the Criminal Code, the development of the Criminal Procedure Code was carried out with expert support provided within the framework of cooperation with the European Union and the Council of Europe, with due regard to European human rights standards and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights.

In the proceedings concerning members of the "Holy Struggle" movement, administrative supervision and related restrictions were imposed not by administrative authorities, but by competent courts acting under the Criminal Procedure Code. The courts assessed the individual circumstances of each accused person, the nature and gravity of the alleged offences, the factual information obtained during the investigation, and the specific procedural risks identified in the proceedings, including the risks of absconding, obstructing the investigation or trial, communicating unlawfully with other participants in the proceedings, or continuing alleged unlawful conduct.

These measures were not imposed on account of the persons' membership in the "Holy Struggle" movement, their political or religious views, or their participation in peaceful assemblies, public debate or other lawful civic activity. They were applied solely as preventive measures within criminal proceedings concerning alleged preparation of serious violent offences against public safety and the constitutional order.

Administrative supervision was applied, where appropriate, as a less restrictive alternative to detention or house arrest. The scope of the restrictions was limited to what the competent court considered necessary to address the identified procedural risks.

Accordingly, the administrative supervision measures imposed in these proceedings were prescribed by law, applied by competent courts, pursued legitimate aims recognized under international human rights law, including the protection of public safety, prevention of crime and proper administration of justice, and were subject to individual assessment of necessity and proportionality. They are therefore consistent with Armenia's obligations concerning the rights to liberty, freedom of movement, privacy, and freedoms of association, peaceful assembly and expression.

At the same time, the application, modification or termination of administrative supervision and related restrictions remains subject to judicial control. The competent courts retain authority to review the necessity and proportionality of such measures in light of the evolving circumstances of the proceedings, and to replace or terminate them where the statutory grounds for their continued application no longer exist.

7. Please outline the measures that will be taken to prevent the repression and criminalization of the legitimate exercise of the rights to freedom of assembly, association and expression, and the right to take part in public affairs.

The Constitution of the Republic of Armenia and the national legal framework guarantee the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of expression and freedom of speech. These rights are not merely a parchment guarantee, but are effectively reflected in the applicable procedural framework, institutional safeguards and judicial protection mechanisms. The comprehensive reforms undertaken within both the law enforcement system and the judiciary further demonstrate the State's ongoing commitment to strengthening the rule of law and ensuring the effective realization of these constitutional guarantees in practice.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia has been consistently implementing comprehensive reforms aimed at preventing and eliminating instances of disproportionate use of force, torture and other forms of ill-treatment by police officers, establishing clear standards governing the use of physical force and special means, and ensuring an appropriate institutional response to every allegation of excessive use of force.

As of 1 November 2025, the Police Guard of the Ministry of Internal Affairs has become operational as a specialised public order and public safety service composed of specially trained officers. The Police Guard is responsible for policing public assemblies and ensuring the effective exercise of the right to peaceful assembly.

In order to ensure the proper implementation of the powers conferred upon the Police and the Police Guard under the Laws "On Police" and "On the Police Guard", to safeguard human rights and fundamental freedoms, prevent and respond to offences, assist persons in need of protection, and maintain public order and public safety, the Ministry developed a Standard Operating Procedure on the Use of Force by Police Officers, which was approved by Order No. 6-N of the Minister of Internal Affairs of 30 October 2025.

Both the Laws "On Police" and "On the Police Guard", as well as the Standard Operating Procedure on the Use of Force by Police Officers underwent independent international expert review and received positive assessments confirming their alignment with applicable international human rights standards and best practices.

The Standard Operating Procedure was developed on the basis of internationally recognised standards governing crowd management, the protection of human rights, the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality in the use of force, as well as the relevant United Nations conventions, principles and guidance.

The Procedure serves as a practical decision-making framework enabling police officers, in each specific situation, to objectively, professionally and impartially assess whether the use of force is lawful and necessary, and to determine the appropriate conduct expected from them in the course of exercising such powers.

The Procedure is mandatory for all officers of the Police Guard as well as all other police units and applies both in the context of public assemblies and during the exercise of any other police powers.

Within the framework of the Council of Europe programme, specialised training programmes have been delivered for the initial and continuous professional training of Police Guard officers, including dedicated modules concerning the legality and proportionality of the use of coercive measures by police officers.

Another important component of these reforms is the establishment of a Negotiation Unit within the Police Guard. This represents a fundamentally new approach to public order policing, placing communication, de-escalation and the peaceful resolution of potentially tense situations at the centre of policing practice. The principal objective of this approach is to reduce the traditional "us versus them" divide between the police and participants in public events and to promote an environment based on dialogue and mutual respect.

On the basis of the Laws "On Police" and "On the Police Guard", and with the aim of providing additional safeguards ensuring the lawfulness of police actions during arrest, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has initiated the development of a Standard Operating Procedure on Arrest by Police Officers.

The draft Procedure has been prepared in cooperation with international partners and has been aligned with relevant international standards, including the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights.

The draft establishes detailed rules governing arrests and personal searches and regulates police conduct before, during and after an arrest, including communication with the arrested person. In particular, it provides that immediately after depriving a person of liberty, the police officer must inform the individual, in a language he or she understands and, where necessary, through an interpreter, of the legal grounds and reasons for the arrest, as well as explain the person's right to remain silent and the right to legal counsel.

The draft has been submitted to the Council of Europe for expert review in order to ensure its full compliance with applicable international standards. Following receipt of the positive expert evaluation and any necessary revisions, the Procedure will be approved by an order of the Minister of Internal Affairs and subsequently incorporated into police education and continuous training programmes.

On 2 October 2025, the Law "On Police Conduct and Disciplinary Code" (Law No. HO-315-N) was adopted. The Law establishes a unified legal framework governing police integrity, professional conduct, accountability and disciplinary proceedings. It also introduces an improved procedure for conducting internal investigations concerning police officers, thereby ensuring more effective examination of alleged misconduct.

Furthermore, by Order No. 96-L of the Minister of Internal Affairs of 23 December 2025, the Code of Conduct for Police Officers was approved. Under the Code, every police officer is required, while exercising official powers, to respect and protect every person's right to life, physical and psychological integrity, dignity and security, and must under no circumstances commit, instigate, tolerate or otherwise permit torture or any other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or coercive measure.

In addition, by Order No. 111-L of 30 December 2025, the Minister approved the Procedure for Conducting Integrity Checks of Police Officers. The integrity check mechanism is intended to promote ethical and professional conduct, strengthen service discipline, ensure the timely detection of misconduct, establish the grounds for disciplinary liability, prevent violations, eliminate the causes and conditions facilitating misconduct, and enhance public confidence in public service, including the Police.

Recognising the importance of transparency and constructive dialogue with society in shaping public perceptions regarding public safety, the Ministry of Internal Affairs continues to implement measures aimed at ensuring access to information, strengthening cooperation with the media, identifying and addressing instances of interference with the professional activities of journalists, and preventing such incidents.

Moreover, by Order of the Minister of Internal Affairs of 9 June 2025, the Strategic Communication Programme for Police Reforms was adopted. The Programme places particular emphasis on cooperation with the media as a key instrument for enhancing public awareness, increasing the transparency of police activities and strengthening public trust in law enforcement institutions.

Under the Code of Conduct for Police Officers, approved by the Minister of Internal Affairs, police officers are specifically required:

- to demonstrate respect for the activities of mass media serving the public interest, refrain from any actions that may interfere with journalists' professional activities, respond to journalists' questions in a restrained and professional manner, provide all lawful and accurate information available to them, and, within the limits of their competence, facilitate journalists' access to information in accordance with the law,
- when giving interviews, communicating officially with the public, or responding to questions or written inquiries from media representatives, to comply with the Police's communication rules, strategic communication policy, relevant guidelines and the official institutional position on the matter concerned. Where immediate responses or the provision of verified information are objectively impossible due to legal or practical constraints, police officers are required to refer media representatives to the Public Communication and Awareness Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs or another authorised official.

8. Please indicate what administrative, legislative and judicial measures have been, or will be, taken to investigate the above allegations of violations and ensure that victims receive effective remedies and reparation, and that any perpetrators are held accountable, in accordance with international law.

As indicated in the response to Question 2, criminal proceedings concerning the alleged use of excessive force by police officers during the events of 12 June 2024 were initiated on 14 June 2024 and remain pending before the competent investigative authority. The investigation includes the examination of witness testimony, video recordings, forensic medical evidence and expert examinations, and is being conducted in accordance with applicable domestic law and relevant international standards, including the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights.

Criminal proceedings concerning the alleged use of excessive force have already been instituted. The outcome of the proceedings will be determined solely on the basis of the evidence collected and, where appropriate, by the judgment of an independent and impartial court.

It should also be mentioned that domestic legislation provides effective judicial remedies and mechanisms for compensation where a person has been subjected to unlawful criminal prosecution or other unlawful restrictions of his or her rights. Article 62 of the Constitution guarantees the right to compensation in cases prescribed by law. In addition, Article 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code provides acquitted persons with the right to seek compensation for damages resulting from unlawful criminal prosecution, coercive measures, conviction or other unlawful restrictions of their rights and freedoms, including compensation for loss of income, deprivation of liberty, legal expenses and other pecuniary damage. Furthermore, Article 1064 of the Civil Code provides for full compensation by the Republic of Armenia for damage resulting from unlawful conviction, criminal prosecution or the application of unlawful preventive measures, irrespective of the fault of the competent authorities. Accordingly, where investigations or judicial proceedings establish that a violation has occurred, the persons concerned have access to the remedies and compensation mechanisms provided by Armenian law.

In addition to the remedies available under criminal legislation, Armenian law provides for a civil remedy enabling individuals to seek compensation for violations of their fundamental rights. Article 162.1 of the Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia provides for judicial compensation for non-pecuniary damage where a pre-trial body, prosecutor or court has established that a decision, act or omission of a state or local self-government authority, or its officials, has violated a fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution. The provision covers violations of the right to life, the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the right to liberty and security, the right to a fair trial, the right to respect for private and family life and the home, the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association, the right to an effective remedy, and the right to property. Accordingly, individuals whose right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion has been violated by a public authority are entitled to seek judicial compensation for the non-pecuniary damage suffered. The Civil Code also provides for compensation in cases of wrongful conviction and for non-pecuniary damage resulting from unlawful administrative action in accordance with the procedure established by law.

Annex 1
Applicable Armenian legislation

Criminal Code

Article 41. Co-operating with bodies carrying out operational intelligence activities

The person having caused harm to the interests protected under the criminal statute who has, as prescribed by law, co-operated with bodies carrying out operational intelligence activities within the limits of the assignment given to assist in revealing, preventing a crime or obtaining evidence, shall not be subject to criminal liability, where the measures not linked to causing harm for achieving the goal were absent.

2. While co-operating with bodies carrying out operational intelligence activities, a person shall not be subject to criminal liability in case of committing a completed grave or particularly grave criminal offence against a person.

3. Where, while co-operating with bodies carrying out operational intelligence activities the person has been a member of a criminal organization or has committed a criminal offence within the composition of the criminal organization which is provided for as an aggravating circumstance in the Special Part of this Code, and due to that aggravating circumstance, the criminal offence is deemed to be particularly grave or grave, or where the criminal offence committed thereby is deemed to be particularly grave or grave under the element of being committed in "particularly large" amount, this shall not be incriminated to the person co-operating with bodies carrying out operational intelligence activities.

Article 43. Preparation of a Criminal Offence

1. Preparation of a criminal offence shall be deemed to be the acquisition of an instrument or means for the intentional commission of a criminal offence, the adaptation of such instrument or means, or the intentional creation of other conditions, where the person, due to circumstances beyond his or her control, is unable to commence the commission of the objective element of the criminal offence encompassed by his or her intent.
2. Where the acquisition of an instrument or means for the intentional commission of a criminal offence, the adaptation of such instrument or means, or the intentional creation of other conditions contains the elements of another completed criminal offence, the act shall be qualified as a concurrence of criminal offences.

Article 152: International Terrorism

1. International terrorism – kidnapping, unlawful deprivation of liberty, hostage-taking of or applying violence against a representative of a State or an international organization, or carrying out an explosion or arson or other publicly dangerous actions in the territory of a state

or international organization for the purpose of provoking international tension or a war or destabilizing the internal situation of that state -

shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of ten to fifteen years.

2. Murder of the person provided for by part 1 of this Article -

shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of twelve to twenty years, or by life imprisonment.

Article 253. Larceny

Larceny — overt illegal taking, when the offender realizes that he or she is committing the act overtly —

shall be punished by a fine in the amount of ten-fold to thirty-fold, or by one hundred to two hundred hours of community service, or by restriction of liberty for a term of one to three years, or by short-term imprisonment for a term of one to two months, or by imprisonment for a term of maximum three years.

2. Larceny committed:

(1) by a group of persons acting in conspiracy —

(2) by use of technical means, specially adapted equipment or other object or means, or destroying, damaging or bypassing equipment, system, structure or other means intended for the protection or preservation of property or

(3) on a large-scale —

shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of three to six years.

3. Larceny committed:

(1) by a criminal organization;

(2) by illegally entering a residence;

(3) through illegal taking of objects of a particular historic, literary or cultural value

(4) on a particularly large-scale —

shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of five to ten years.

Article 297. Hooliganism

1. Hooliganism — displaying a disrespectful attitude towards society or an openly contemptuous attitude towards legal or moral norms, manifested by humiliating a person, or by using swear words or obscene expressions, or by disturbing the peace of people through demonstrative disregard of the rules of coexistence by the same means, or by disrupting a public event or ceremony, or obstructing the normal activities of an object of public significance, institution or organisation —

shall be punished by a fine in the amount of maximum twenty-fold, or by eighty to one hundred and fifty hours of community service, or by restriction of liberty for a term of maximum two years, or by short-term imprisonment for a term of maximum one month, or by imprisonment for a term of maximum two years.

2. The act provided for by part 1 of this Article, which has been committed:

(1) by a group of persons;

(2) against a person in a helpless situation; or

(3) by using information or communication technologies —

shall be punished by a fine in the amount of twenty-fold to fifty-fold, or by one hundred and fifty to two hundred and seventy hours of community service, or by restriction of liberty for a term of one to three years, or by short-term imprisonment for a term of one to two months, or by imprisonment for a term of two to five years.

3. The act provided for by part 1 or 2 of this Article, which has been committed by using a weapon or an object or means prepared or adapted in advance for causing bodily injury, or by threat of using such weapon, object or means —

shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of four to eight years.

Article 308: Terrorism

1. Explosion or arson or commission of other publicly dangerous actions or seizing or keeping under control premises, means of transport, means of communication or communication facilities, other communication channels combined with the risk of killing a civilian or a person not actively participating in military operations during an armed conflict, causing serious or moderate damage to health, causing large-scale property damage or causing other serious consequences the purpose of which is to terrorize the population or its separate group, to disrupt the activities of public authorities, forcing a representative of a public authority, state or public servant or representative of an international organization or a person serving in another organization to commit any act or to fulfil another demand of the offender, as well as any other acts considered terrorism by international treaties -

shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of eight to twelve years.

2. The act provided for by part 1 of this Article, which has been committed:

(1) by a criminal organization, or

(2) by attacking the object of atomic energy use or by using nuclear or radioactive material or other source of ionizing radiation or weapons of mass destruction, toxic, chemical or biological material -

shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of ten to fifteen years.

Article 309: Contributing to terrorist activities

1. Contributing to terrorist activities - recruiting persons or organizing a terrorist training camp for terrorists for committing the criminal offences provided for by Article 308, 311, 312, 315, 316 or 317 of this Code, teaching skills of committing the criminal offences provided for by Article 308, 311, 312, 315, 316 or 317 of this Code, or travelling for the purpose of committing the mentioned acts or the criminal offences provided for by Article 308, 311, 312, 315, 316 or 317 of this Code or otherwise contributing thereto -

shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of five to ten years.

2. The act provided for by part 1 of this Article, which has been committed:

(1) by a criminal organization, or

(2) by use of authority-related or official powers or the influence deriving therefrom -

shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of eight to twelve years.

3. A person having committed the act provided for by part 1 or 2 of this Article shall be released from criminal liability, if he or she has voluntarily informed the competent bodies about his or her contribution to terrorist activities, which made it possible to prevent the committal of the criminal offences provided for by Article 308, 310, 311, 312, 315, 316 or 317 of this Code. Where the act actually committed by the person contains other corpus delicti, he or she shall be subject to criminal liability for that crime.

Article 310: Financing of terrorist activities

1. Financing of terrorist activities - direct or indirect provision or collection of property, with the awareness that it will or may be completely or partially used by an individual terrorist or a terrorist organization or for committing the criminal offences provided for by Article 308, 309, 311, 315, 316 or 317 of this Code, or provision of a financial service, with the awareness that such service or the outcome thereof will be used by an individual terrorist or terrorist organization or is targeted or may be targeted at the committal of the criminal offences provided for by Article 308, 309, 311, 315, 316 or 317 of this Code -

shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of five to ten years.

2. The act provided for by part 1 of this Article, which has been committed:

(1) by a criminal organization, or

(2) by use of authority-related or official powers or the influence deriving therefrom -

shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of eight to twelve years.

3. Within the meaning of this Article, property shall be considered to be the property prescribed by part 10 of Article 121 of this Code.

Article 311: Establishment or management of a terrorist organization

1. Establishment or management of a terrorist organization -

shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of ten to fifteen years.

2. An organization that has been established for committing the criminal offences provided for by Article 308, 309, 310, 315, 316 or 317 of this Code shall be deemed terrorist.

3. A person having committed the act provided for by part 1 of this Article which contributed to the disruption of the activities of the terrorist organization shall be released from the criminal liability provided for by this Article. Where the act actually committed by the person contains other corpus delicti, he or she shall be subject to criminal liability for that crime.

Article 312: Participation in a terrorist organization

1. Participation in a terrorist organization -

shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of five to ten years.

2. A person having committed the act provided for by part 1 of this Article which contributed to the disruption of the activities of the terrorist organization shall be released from the criminal liability provided for by this Article. Where the act actually committed by the person contains other corpus delicti, he or she shall be subject to criminal liability for that crime.

Article 313: Justifying, propagating terrorism or inciting terrorism, of calls for committing terrorism, as well as disseminating materials or objects containing such calls

1. Publicly justifying or advocating terrorism combined with inciting terrorism, or public calls for committing the criminal offences provided for by Article 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 315, 316 or 317 of this Code, as well as disseminating materials or objects containing such calls -

shall be punished by a fine in the amount of ten-fold to thirty-fold, or by one hundred to two hundred hours of community service, or by restriction of liberty for a term of maximum three years, or by short-term imprisonment for a term of maximum two months, or by imprisonment for a term of maximum three years.

2. The act provided for by part 1 of this Article, which has been committed:

(1) by a group of persons acting in conspiracy;

(2) by use of authority-related or official powers or the influence deriving therefrom, or

(3) by using publicly demonstrated works, mass media or information or communication technologies -

shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of two to five years.

Article 314: Dissemination of false information on terrorism

1. Dissemination of false information on terrorism -

shall be punished by a fine in the amount of maximum twenty-fold, or by eighty to one hundred and fifty hours of community service, or by restriction of liberty for a term of maximum two years, or by short-term imprisonment for a term of maximum two months, or by imprisonment for a term of maximum two years.

2. The act provided for by part 1 of this Article, which:

(1) has negligently caused large-scale property damage or disruption of a public or state event, distortion of activities of the institution or organization, or other grave consequences; or

(2) has been committed by using publicly demonstrated works, mass media or information or communication technologies -

shall be punished by a fine in the amount of ten-fold to thirty-fold, or by one hundred to two hundred hours of community service, or by restriction of liberty for a term of maximum three years, or by short-term imprisonment for a term of one to two months, or by imprisonment for a term of maximum three years.

Article 327. Participation in Mass Disorders

1. Participation in mass disorders threatening public safety, where the participant's act was accompanied by the use of force or by the commission of another act endangering the life

or health of a person, by arson, destruction of or damage to property, use of a firearm, explosive substance or explosive device, or by organising or leading such actions —

shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of four to eight years.

Article 329: Public speech aimed at inciting or propagating hatred, discrimination, intolerance or enmity, as well as dissemination for this purpose of materials and objects

"1. Public speech aimed at inciting or propagating hatred, intolerance or enmity against a person or group of persons based on racial, national, ethnic or social origin, religion, political or other views or other circumstances of personal or social nature, as well as disseminating materials and object for that purpose -

shall be punished by a fine in the amount of maximum twenty-fold, or by eighty to one hundred and fifty hours of community service, or by restriction of liberty for a term of maximum two years, or by short-term imprisonment for a term of maximum two months, or by imprisonment for a term of maximum two years.

2. The act provided for by part 1 of this Article, which has been committed:

(1) by a group of persons acting in conspiracy;

(2) by use of authority-related or official powers or the influence deriving therefrom, or

(3) by using publicly demonstrated works, mass media or information or communication technologies -

shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of one to four years."

Article 330: Public calls to use violence, publicly justifying or propagating violence, as well as dissemination of materials or objects for that purpose

"1. Public speech aimed at using violence against a person or group of persons based on racial, national, ethnic or social origin, religion, political or other views or other circumstances of personal or social nature, publicly justifying or propagating such violence, as well as disseminating materials or objects for that purpose, where there are no elements of corpus delicti provided for by Article 136, 151, 313, 328, 329 or 422 of this Code -

shall be punished by a fine in the amount of maximum ten-fold, or by maximum one hundred hours of community service, or by restriction of liberty for a term of maximum one year, or by short-term imprisonment for a term of maximum one month, or by imprisonment for a term of maximum one year.

2. The act provided for by part 1 of this Article, which has been committed:

(1) by a group of persons acting in conspiracy;

(2) by use of authority-related or official powers or the influence deriving therefrom, or

(3) by using publicly demonstrated works, mass media or information or communication technologies -

shall be punished by a fine in the amount of ten-fold to thirty-fold, or by one hundred to two hundred hours of community service, or by deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or engage in certain activities for a term of two to five years, or by restriction of liberty for a term of maximum two years, or by short-term imprisonment for a term of maximum two months, or by imprisonment for a term of maximum three years."

As for providing possible compensation to the accused, **Article 62 of the Constitution** states that where a person sentenced, upon a criminal judgment entered into legal force, for the committal of a criminal offence has been acquitted on the ground of a new or newly emerged circumstance proving the non-legitimate nature of his or her sentence, this person shall have the right to receive compensation in accordance with law where it is not proven that the timely detection of that circumstance fully or partially depended on the given person.

Article 419: Usurpation of the Power

1. Seizure of the Power by use of violence or threat thereof, as well as taking possession of the powers of the President of the Republic, the National Assembly, the Government or the Constitutional Court by other means not provided for by the Constitution —

shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of ten to fifteen years.

2. Retention of the Power — continuing to exercise the powers of the President of the Republic, deputies, the Prime Minister or ministers after the expiry thereof —

shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of ten to fifteen years.

Article 441: Abuse of authority-related or official powers or the influence deriving therefrom or excess of powers by an official

1. Use by an official of his or her authority-related or official powers or the influence deriving therefrom to the detriment of state or official interests, or failure to perform his or her official duties or improper performance thereof, or committing thereby such an act which does not derive from his or her powers or is beyond the scope of his or her powers, and which has caused essential damage to the rights, freedoms or lawful interests of a person or an organisation, or lawful interests of the public or the State —

shall be punished by a fine in the amount of twenty-fold to forty-fold, or by deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or to engage in certain activities for a term of three to seven years, or by restriction of liberty for a term of one to three years, or by short-term imprisonment for a term of one to two months, or by imprisonment for a term of one to four years.

2. The act provided for by part 1 of this Article, which:

(1) has been committed by use of violence or by threat to use violence;
(2) has caused particularly large-scale property damage;
(3) has been committed with the use of a weapon or special means;
(4) has been committed by a group of officials acting in conspiracy; or
(5) has negligently caused other grave consequence —

shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of four to eight years.

3. The act provided for by part 1 or 2 of this Article, which has been committed by a criminal organisation —

shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of five to ten years.

4. Within the meaning of part 1 of this Article, in case of property damage essential shall be considered to be a large-scale property damage.

Article 450: Torture

1. Intentionally inflicting severe physical pain or severe mental suffering to any person by an official, or by the instigation, order or with the knowledge thereof for the purpose of obtaining from that person or a third person information or confession or for punishing for an act which that person or a third person has committed or is suspected or accused of having committed, as well as for the purpose of intimidating or compelling that person or a third person to commit an act or to refrain from committing an act or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind —

shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of four to eight years.

2. The act provided for by part 1 of this Article, which:

(1) has been committed against a person, his or her close relative or kinsman in relation to performing his or her state, political, official, professional or public activities or duty by that person;

(2) has been committed against a pregnant woman;

(3) has been committed against a person in a helpless situation;

(4) has been committed against a person in material or other dependence from the criminal;

(5) has been committed against a minor;

(6) has been committed with a particular cruelty;

(7) has been committed by a group of persons; or

(8) has negligently caused human death or grave damage to health or other grave consequence —

shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of seven to twelve years.

3. The act provided for by part 1 or 2 of this Article, which has been committed by a criminal organization —

shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of eight to fifteen years.

Criminal Procedure Code

Article 115. Types of preventive measures

1. Preventive measures are detention and alternative preventive measures.

2. Alternative preventive measures are:

1) house arrest.

2) administrative supervision.

3) bail.

4) suspension of office.

5) prohibition of absence.

6) guarantee.

7) educational supervision.

8) military supervision.

Article 116: Legality of the Application of a Precautionary Measure

1. A preventive measure may not be applied if there is no reasonable suspicion that the accused has committed the crime attributed to him.

2. A preventive measure may be applied if it is necessary:

1) to prevent the escape of the accused or

2) to prevent the commission of a crime by the accused or

3) to ensure the fulfillment by the accused of the obligations imposed on him by this Code or by a court decision.

3. When choosing the type of preventive measure, all possible circumstances ensuring and hindering the lawful conduct of the accused shall be taken into account.

4. A copy of the decision to apply a preventive measure shall be handed over to the accused immediately, if possible.

Article 124: Administrative supervision

1. Administrative supervision is a restriction of the freedom of movement and action of the accused; under which he is obliged to register with the competent body of the place specified in the court decision no more than three times a week.

2. By court decision, the accused may also be prohibited from:

1) changing his permanent or temporary place of residence - the community, and in the city of Yerevan - the administrative district - without the permission of the body conducting the proceedings.

2) visiting certain places specified in the decision.

3) communicating with certain persons.

4) leaving his place of residence at certain times of the day, but not more than 12 hours.

3. When establishing the prohibitions provided for in Part 2 of this Article, the state of health of the accused, as well as the conditions of work and study, shall be taken into account.

4. A copy of the decision to impose administrative supervision on the accused shall be sent for execution to the competent body specified by the court.

5. The competent body shall immediately register the accused and notify the body conducting the proceedings of his acceptance for supervision.

6. Supervision of the behavior of the accused shall be carried out by a court decision using special electronic means defined by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia. The accused shall be obliged to carry the specified electronic means of supervision at all times, not to damage them, and to respond to the supervision signals of the competent body.

7. The procedure for the application of administrative supervision and the appeal shall be subject to the provisions established by this Code for detention.

Article 125: Bail

1. Bail is an amount of money defined by a decision of the competent body, which, for ensuring the lawful conduct of the Accused, shall be deposited with the bank or other credit organization specified in the respective decision for safekeeping in the form of Armenian Dram, movable property, securities, or other valuables. Real estate may be accepted as bail, if the decision to apply bail specifically indicates such possibility.

2. When determining the amount of bail, the gravity of the crime attributed to the Accused and the property status of the Accused shall be taken into account. The pledger shall bear the burden of proving the value of the bail.

3. Bail may be paid in by the Accused or any other natural or legal person. If bail is paid in by another person, the Court shall explain to him the substance of the charges brought against the Accused, as well as the potential consequences arising in case of manifestation of unlawful conduct by the Accused.

4. The pledger shall present a document certifying that bail has been paid in, which shall be attached to the materials of the proceedings. The bail is considered as applied from the moment of presenting the document certifying that bail has been paid in to the body conducting proceedings.

5. If the accused has absconded from the body conducting proceedings or has regularly failed to appear upon the invitation of the body conducting proceedings, or has substantially hindered the proceedings, then the Supervising Prosecutor shall render a decision on turning the bail into the revenue of the state, and shall, within a three-day period, send a copy thereof to the Accused and to the person who paid in the bail, explaining to them the procedure envisaged by Articles 299 to 301 of this Code for appealing such decision. If movable property or real estate has been accepted as bail, then, the part of the amount exceeding the amount of bail which remains once such property is sold based on the ground of violation of the terms of the restraint measure, shall be subject to return.

6. When one of the grounds envisaged by Paragraph 5 of this Article exists, in judicial proceedings the decision on turning the bail into the revenue of the state shall be rendered by

the Court. Such decision may be appealed upon the procedure of special review prescribed by this Code.

7. Bail shall be returned to the pledger in all the cases in which the violations prescribed by Paragraph 5 of this Article have not been proven or bail as a restraint measure has been terminated or substituted. The decision to return the bail shall be adopted at the same time when the decision to terminate or to substitute the respective restraint measure is rendered.

Article 164: Rehabilitation of an Acquitted Accused

1. The Acquitted Accused shall be entitled to claim the damage inflicted on him as a result of institution of unlawful criminal prosecution, application of compulsory measures, conviction, as well as other unlawful restrictions of the rights or freedoms.

2. As compensation, the Acquitted Accused shall have the right to receive:

1) The salary, pension, allowance or any other income which he has been deprived of;

2) The damage caused due to seizing, attaching, confiscating or otherwise disposing of the property;

3) The amount spent due to being in custody;

4) The amount paid to the Attorney;

5) The paid procedural expenses;

3. The Acquitted Accused shall have the right:

1) To be reinstated in his former job (his former position), and in case of impossibility of the latter, to get an equivalent job (position) or to receive a pecuniary compensation for the damage inflicted as a result of losing his former job (position);

2) That the term of serving the sentence in the form of deprivation of liberty be calculated in all the types of work experience;

3) To reinstate the honorary or military title, rank, degree, qualification category or the state award;

4. The body which instituted the criminal prosecution shall, upon the request of the Acquitted Accused, make a public apology to him.

5. In case of death of an Acquitted Accused, his Legal Representative shall exercise the rights prescribed by this Article.

If the criminal prosecution has been terminated based on the circumstances prescribed by Clauses 1 to 9 of Paragraph 1 of Article 12 of this Code, or an acquitting judgment has been delivered by the Court of Appeal, the person may claim rehabilitation prescribed by this Article only through civil procedure.

Civil Code

Article 162.1. Concept of Non-Pecuniary Damage and Compensation Therefor

1. For the purposes of this Code, non-pecuniary damage means physical or mental suffering caused by a decision, action or omission encroaching upon material or non-material benefits belonging to a person by birth or by virtue of law, or violating his or her personal property or non-property rights.
2. A person, and, in the event of his or her death or legal incapacity, his or her spouse, parent, adoptive parent, child, adopted child, guardian or trustee, shall have the right to seek compensation for non-pecuniary damage through judicial proceedings where the investigative body, prosecutor or court has established that, as a result of a decision, action or omission of a state or local self-government body, or its official, the following fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia and the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms have been violated:

    1. the right to life;
    2. the right not to be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
    3. the right to liberty and security of person;
    4. the right to a fair trial;
    5. the right to respect for private and family life and the inviolability of the home;
    6. the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and the right to freely express one's opinion;
    7. the right to freedom of assembly and association;
    8. the right to an effective remedy;
    9. the right to property.

3. Where a convicted person has been acquitted under the conditions provided for in Article 3 of Protocol No. 7 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, he or she shall have the right to seek compensation through judicial proceedings for the non-pecuniary damage caused to him or her (for the purposes of this Code, compensation for wrongful conviction).
4. Damage caused to honour, dignity or business reputation shall be compensated in accordance with Article 1087.1 of this Code, while non-pecuniary damage resulting from the violation of fundamental rights and wrongful conviction shall be compensated in accordance with the procedure and conditions set out in Article 1087.2 of this Code.
5. Non-pecuniary damage caused as a result of unlawful administrative action shall be subject to compensation in accordance with the procedure established by the Law of the Republic of Armenia on the Fundamentals of Administration and Administrative Proceedings.

Article 1064: Liability for damage caused by illegal actions of preliminary investigation bodies, prosecutor's office and court

1. Damage caused as a result of illegal conviction, criminal liability, detention, house arrest, administrative supervision or prohibition of absence, or imposition of an administrative penalty shall be compensated in full by the Republic of Armenia in accordance with the procedure

established by law, regardless of the fault of the officials of the preliminary investigation body, prosecutor's office and court.

2. Damage caused to a citizen or legal entity by illegal actions of preliminary investigation bodies, prosecutor's office, which did not lead to the consequences provided for in Part 1 of this Article, shall be compensated on the grounds and in the manner provided for in Article 1063 of this Code.

3. Damage caused in the course of administering justice shall be compensated only if the guilt of the judge has been established by a final judgment.