

Statement by AGBU Germany on the suspected arson attack in front of the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Germany on 23 July 2020 in Berlin

Berlin, 23 July 2020

Last night on the 22nd to 23rd July 2020, at 00:20 am in Berlin, a vehicle belonging to the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Germany was presumably set on fire outside the gates of the Embassy. As a result of the fire, the car, which carried the diplomatic registration number 0-169 of the Republic of Armenia, suffered a total loss. Fortunately, no people were injured. As this is an Embassy vehicle, the State Police State Security Department of the State Criminal Investigation Office has taken over further investigations and is investigating the causes of the fire together with the Fire Protection Commission.

AGBU Germany suspects a political motive behind the fire at the Armenian Embassy. Given the aggressive rhetoric of the presidents of Turkey and Azerbaijan in recent weeks, a racist, anti-Armenian motive is highly conceivable. Both Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Ilham Aliyev intensified propaganda campaigns against Armenians and Christians in general, as the conversion of Hagia Sophia in Istanbul into a mosque planned for 24 July clearly demonstrates.

In the capital of Azerbaijan, Baku, several tens of thousands of demonstrators recently took to the streets demanding an escalation of the tense situation in the South Caucasus into a war against the neighboring republics of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. In particular, the explicitly formulated threat to Armenian lives by the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, whereby Armenia's nuclear power plant "Metsamor" was designated as a target for attack was accompanied by a number of media reports and condemned by the international community.

AGBU Germany is in contact with the investigating authorities and expects a clarification of the course of events as soon as possible. Should the political motive be confirmed, an immediate condemnation of the arson attack is demanded, both by the German government as well as society at large.

AGBU Germany, based in Berlin, is the German representation of the Armenian General Benevolent Union from New York, the world's largest Armenian non-profit organization.

www.agbugermany.org

Sources:

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