

## STATEMENT AND CALL

The non-violent, velvet revolution that took place in our country in the spring of 2018 inspired hope that the Armenian society would abandon the violence, corruption, social injustice and other vicious phenomena that have characterized our social and political life in recent years.

Today we are witnessing those who come to power violate their promises and violate their public statements, treat the people with cold indifference, the people who have walked with them blindly, have believed and glorified a group of people with no public vision and/or program, who have had populist speeches for years.

Our organization, as a human rights organization, has been closely monitoring developments in Armenia for a long time, and in each case it has been reporting violations by public officials and local government officials.

And yesterday, on December 3, 2019, the actions of the RA Police officers against students showed and confirmed that only the names and surnames of officials have changed in Armenia, technically, only the officials' age have become younger, but the spirit and culture remained the same, the violence and hatred, the permissiveness and the atmosphere of impunity, the lack of sense of responsibility still remained in use.

We strongly condemn the actions of the RA police officers, which have been accompanied by violence and violations of the requirements of the RA legislation. The authorities-policemen also openly discriminated against the students who represented the ARF party and were members of that party.

We also condemn the arrogant and indifferent attitude of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia Arayik Harutyunyan to the students who were presenting their demand. This is unacceptable in a state where the prime minister of the state declares that every citizen of Armenia is a prime minister and the power is returned to the people. The minister's behavior and the actions of the police do not prove the above mentioned, they are false and overblown statements that only echo.

It is important to quote from a statement issued by the Pope Francis in March 2018 calling young people not to remain silent and unnoticed in society. "The temptation to silence young people has always existed, but young people can decide, 'Should they shout or be silent?' "It is up to you not to keep quiet. Even if others keep quiet, if we older people and leaders, some corrupt, keep quiet, if the whole world keeps quiet and loses its joy, I ask you: Will you cry out? Please decide before the stones scream. "

We call the Armenian students to fight for your rights and fundamental freedoms within the framework of the RA Constitution, laws and international legal norms, not to let the officials and police officers who use violence and pressure against you go unpunished.

Be strong and united!

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