

IDC-CDI Statement

Condemning the political persecution in Armenia, notably the case of Mr. Armen Ashotyan

- Recalling our unwavering commitment to upholding the principles of democracy, human rights, and political freedom;
- Noting with deep concern the state-organized large scale political persecution against prominent opposition leaders in Armenia, and specially against Mr. Armen Ashotyan, the Vice President of the Republican Party;
- Acknowledging that the Armenian authorities have engaged in a campaign to silence opposition leaders by using the judiciary to fabricate criminal charges against them, as is the case of Mr. Ashotyan;
- Deeply alarmed by the unjustified arrest of Mr. Ashotyan on June 16th, 2023, despite the complete lack of substantial evidence thus indicating the clear political motivation behind this arrest;
- Expressing profound concern over the denial of Mr. Ashotyan's family's visitation rights during his arrest;
- Recognizing the broader objective of the authorities to instill fear among opposition politicians, thereby suppressing political dissent and silencing their voices.

The IDC-CDI:

- Strongly condemns the Armenian authorities' politically motivated persecution of opposition politicians, which constitutes a flagrant violation of political freedom, human rights, and democratic principles;
- Stresses the critical importance of safeguarding the above-mentioned principles of democracy, human rights, and political freedom in Armenia;
- Calls upon the authorities of Armenia to immediately and unconditionally release Mr. Ashotyan from detention;
- Calls upon the government to put an immediate end to all forms of political persecution, including arbitrary arrests, fabricated charges, travel bans, and restrictions of the rights of opposition politicians and activists;
- Calls for the total independence of the judiciary as a fundamental pillar of the country's rule of law;
- Calls for a fair, transparent and independent judicial process, ensuring that justice prevails, in the cases of Mr. Ashotyan and so many other opposition leaders.
- Urges the international community to closely monitor the developments of this alarming situation and publicly denounce these methods of political persecution;
- Requests to forward this resolution to the relevant authority bodies in Armenia and other relevant stakeholders, urging them to take immediate action in addressing this matter.
- Calls upon media representatives to disseminate this information widely to raise awareness.

Brussels, 23 June 2023