
YEREVAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL EX-MEMBER HANDS LETTER TO EU OFFICE

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20.08.2019

News.am (20 August 2019)

We have the right to organize actions and voice the existing problems through free, peaceful demonstrations, but the dictatorial regime exerts pressure and curtails our rights. Alternative [Yerevan] Municipality initiative member Sona Aghekyan, a former member of the capital city Yerevan Council of Elders, on Tuesday told this to reporters outside the office of the Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Armenia.

She noted that on Monday, the Human Rights Defender (Ombudsman) of Armenia was handed the alarm-letter on the violation of their rights, and today they are handing it to Ambassador Piotr Świtalski, head of the EU delegation to Armenia.

Aghekyan noted that there is dictatorship in Armenia today because, in her view, both the executive the legislative branches of power as well the local municipal self-governing bodies are governed by way of one person.

There should be authorities in Armenia that people are not afraid of, she said, in particular.

And commenting on Mondays police actions during the protests against the possibility of the reopening of the Amulsar gold mine, she noted that what occurred was a brutal and unlawful use of force that should have no place in Armenia.

The rights of all those detained have also been grossly violated, Sona Aghekyan added. The international community should give its assessment to that.

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