**Press Release**

**April 20, 2016**

**on 14th court hearing of the murder of the Avetisyan family**

On April 15, 2016, the General Jurisdiction Court of Shirak Marz (Region) held on the territory of the Russian military base № 102 the 14th outgoing hearing of the murder of the Avetisyan family.

At the hearing, the Court intended to question defendant V. Permyakov. As expected, he refused to testify by answering a few relevant questions of his attorney.

V. Permyakov refused to answer the attorney’s question on whether there was any impediment or obstacle preventing him from testifying.

Also, the defendant gave no answer to any question on the purpose of entering the Avetisyans’ apartment and on committing the murders.

Before the disclosure of his testimonies provided during the preliminary investigation, the defense party filed a motion to declare illegal the testimonies provided by V. Permyakov’s in his capacity of a suspect since he had been questioned by Russian investigators in the presence of the Armenian lawyer, which is illegal. The Court will consider the motion at the next hearing.

Afterwards, V. Permyakov’s testimony provided during the preliminary investigation was disclosed.

In the disclosed testimony V. Permyahov provided during the preliminary investigation, he mentioned that he had entered the apartment of the Avetisyans randomly, without any previous direction. The cause for which he deserted the military unit was homesickness; wandering in the city, he noticed an open gate and upon entering the apartment, tried to obtain some clothes and money to leave for Chita.

According to the defendant’s testimony provided during the preliminary investigation, he committed the murders out of the fear that those people might call the police. V. Permyakov also stated that he had previous experience in breaking into apartments illegally.

The testimony provided during the preliminary investigation makes it clear that during his service V. Permyakov suffered mental health problems for which he received treatment with a psychiatrist.

In response to the investigator’s question on whether he hated the Armenian nation, V. Permyakov provided a negative answer.

At the next hearing, the Court will resume the disclosure of V. Permyakov’s testimony provided during the preliminary investigation.

The next outgoing hearing of the General Jurisdiction Court of Shirak Marz (Region) of the murder of the Avetisyan family is scheduled for April 22, 2016, at 12 pm.