**Press Release**

**May 18, 2016**

**on 18th court hearing of the murder of the Avetisyan family**

On May 13, 2016, the General Jurisdiction Court of Shirak Marz (Region) held on the territory of the Russian military base № 102 the 18th outgoing hearing of the murder of the Avetisyan family.

The Court dismissed the motion filed at the previous hearing by Arayik Zalyan, representative of the successor to the victim and HCA Vanadzor lawyer, on finding out the data of the police officers who had taken part in V. Permyakov’s arrest and his transfer to the Russian frontier troops and on summoning them to the court.

The Court also dismissed A. Zalyan’s motion on summoning to the court the immediate neighbors of the Avetisyan family, by which he particularly petitioned summoning the residents of the houses in front of the Avetisyans’ apartment and in their immediate neighborhood as well as the residents of the 2 houses in the street in the opposite direction of the Avetisyans’ apartment (the latter 2 houses are adjacent to the Avetisyans’ apartment).

As immediate neighbors of the Avetisyans, the persons above might possess crucial information for the outcome of the case considering that 28 shots were fired from assault rifle AKS-74 in the Avetisyans’ apartment.

They have never been questioned during the investigation into the case and no one knows what information they possess about the case.

The other fallow servicemen of V. Permyakov, who were summoned to the court, including A. Nikishin, his immediate commander, submitted relevant letters refusing to appear before the court and requesting to disclose their pre-trial testimonies.

The pre-trial testimony of the latter makes it clear that the military servicemen assigned to do their service in Gyumri were not selected under a particularly strict procedure; only their documents were checked to avoid inaccuracy. He mentioned about V. Permyakov that he had noticed nothing strange in his behavior.

The pre-trial testimonies of the other 2 servicemen were also disclosed. They also insisted that there was nothing strange about V. Permyakov’s conduct and he behaved as usual.

At the next court hearing, another witness involved in the case will be questioned at the initiative of the representatives of the successors to the victim.

The next outgoing hearing of the General Jurisdiction Court of Shirak Marz (Region) of the murder of the Avetisyan family is scheduled for May 27, 2016, at 12 pm.