**Press Release**

**May 9, 2016**

**on 17th court hearing of the murder of the Avetisyan family**

On May 6, 2016, the General Jurisdiction Court of Shirak Marz (Region) held on the territory of the Russian military base № 102 the 17th outgoing hearing of the murder of the Avetisyan family.

At the court hearing, the findings of the investigatory experiment conducted by the Russian side were disclosed. Through a model resembling the apartment of the Avetisyan family built on the territory of the military base, V. Permyakov showed how he entered the apartment and committed the murders. The Armenian side received the findings of the investigatory experiment only in form of a protocol with photos of quite a low quality. As for the video shooting of the investigatory experiment, no video was provided to the Armenian side.

The Court disclosed the responses to the inquiry on summoning four Russian military servicemen as witnesses; accordingly, the witnesses refused to appear before the Armenian court stating that they insisted on their pre-trial testimonies.

In response to the Court’s question on disclosing the pre-trial testimonies of the witnesses, Arayik Zalyan, representative of the successor to the victim and HCA Vanadzor lawyer, stated that the court was under obligation to take all the possible measures to ensure the presence of witnesses at the hearing.

Since the court has no authority to apprehend a foreign national, the pre-trial testimonies of the witnesses were disclosed. Among them, the pre-trial testimony of Ivan Zheltov, V. Permyakov’s fellow serviceman, was also disclosed; accordingly, the defendant was characterized as a sociable person without any deviations.

Applications will be submitted to summon the rest 3 military servicemen as witnesses as well, including A. Nikishin, immediate commander of V. Permyakov, and the official who conscripted V. Permyakov for military service from Chita to Armenia.

The motion of Lusine Sahakyan, successor to the victim, on questioning Vardan Nadaryan, former chief of police of Shirak Marz (Region), as a witness was dismissed.

Given that the RA Police refused to provide the information requested by the letter of A. Zalyan, representative of the successor to the victim, back on March 5, 2016 on the names and surnames of the police officers who took part in V. Permyakov’s arrest and his transfer to the Russian frontier troops, A. Zalyan filed with the Court a written motion on finding out the names and surnames of the police officers above and summoning them to the court.

The next outgoing hearing of the General Jurisdiction Court of Shirak Marz (Region) of the murder of the Avetisyan family is scheduled for May 13, 2016, at 12 pm.