**Press Release**

**June 2, 2016**

**on 19th court hearing of the murder of the Avetisyan family**

On May 27, 2016, the General Jurisdiction Court of Shirak Marz (Region) held on the territory of the Russian military base № 102 the 19th outgoing hearing of the murder of the Avetisyan family.

The court hearing started with a delay of 25 minutes.

Based on the motion of the representatives of victim’s successors, another witness involved in the case, namely Ashot Karapetyan, staff member of the Russian military base № 102, was questioned. Based on his extensive experience, he presented the procedure for completing the servicemen staff of the military base, noting that the best ones were selected for that purpose. Then he presented the details of the incident.

By the order of the chief of staff of the military unit, witness A. Karapetyan informed the military police about the desertion of the soldier; the military police stated that they had no adequate powers and resources to detect the deserter soldier and guided the witness to apply to the police.

Then by the order of the chief of staff, the witness joined the police officers engaged in search operation and visited with them the addresses identified during the search carried out with the patrol dog. However, the Avetisyans’ apartment was not included in the list of the addresses above.

Not detecting V. Permyakov at the addresses above, A. Karapetyan returned to the military unit to draft a plan of searching for the deserter. Later he disseminated the plan among police stations and returned to his workplace.

A. Karapetyan also witnessed the process of transferring V. Permyakov to the military unit after his arrest when, according to him, he noticed RA plainclothes law-enforcement officers. In the meantime, he asked V. Permyakov about the incident and the latter answered that he had no idea that he had committed such an act.

Due to the professional peculiarities, the witness could not answer the lawyers’ questions about the professional capacities of the search dog in terms of its failure to find the trace to the Avetisyans’ house.

Lawyer Aramazd Kiviryan, who protects the interests of victims' successors Anahit Koshtoyan, Lusine Avetisyan, Narine Poghosyan and Andranik Poghosyan, filed a civil claim on pecuniary damages against Russian Federation demanding a compensation of 50,000 EUR for each of the adult members of the killed family and 100,000 EUR for the 2 minor children.

The court hearing was adjourned for a month to translate the civil claim above and send it to relevant addresses.

The next outgoing hearing of the General Jurisdiction Court of Shirak Marz (Region) of the murder of the Avetisyan family is scheduled for June 30, 2016, at 12 pm.