

Dr. Ahmad Shahidov
Head of Azerbaijan Institute for Democracy and Human Rights
www.shahidov.com
ahmad.shahidov@gmail.com, +99450 372 87 30

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

Today's topic is very relevant. And it is very important that the discussions are held in the British Parliament. Because the most important decisions for the future are made here - in Parliament.

First of all, I would like to express my deep gratitude to Mr. Vijay Mehta for organizing today's conference. In fact, Mr. Mehta is a great person and has devoted his entire life to the process of peace in the world.

Today, all the processes, conflicts and wars in the world, as well as all steps taken to achieve peace, are controlled by the United Nations. And the brain center of this body is the UN Security Council. All important decisions are made here and implemented. But is it always implemented?!

This is the main issue. But who are the members of the UN Security Council? The United States, the United Kingdom, China, Russia and France are permanent members of the UN Security Council. That is, these countries are the most responsible countries for peace and reconciliation in the world. On the other hand, these countries are the world's largest manufacturers and exporters of weapons.

There is a strange contrast here. On the one hand, they work for peace in the world, and on the other hand they produce and sell weapons rapidly. Do you think this is a contradiction? Of course it is.

But what to do?! From time to time, we heard that the UN is failing to properly fulfill its functions. Discussions are under way to reform this international body. I also think that the UN Security Council must be reorganized. The world is bigger than 5. But 5 countries cannot rule the whole world. It is unfair.

Today there are hundreds of UN Security Council resolutions that are not being implemented. Sometimes resolutions are implemented within 1-2 days, and in many cases, resolutions are not implemented for years. I can give specific examples. My country, Azerbaijan, has been living in war for more than 30 years. We are at war with our western neighbor Armenia, and official Yerevan holds 20% of Azerbaijani lands. Today we have over 1 million IDPs. In 1993-1994, the UN Security Council has 4 resolutions on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and it explicitly states that Armenia must immediately withdraw from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Unfortunately, those UN Security Council resolutions have not been implemented for 30 years. These examples can be found in Palestine, Yemen and other countries.

In this regard, today's reorganization of the UN Security Council should be discussed. Because the UK is also a permanent member of the Security Council, and the responsibility of that is on the official London.

In general, all the processes taking place in the world - conflicts, massacres and genocides are also our responsibility. It is not only the work of politicians, the presidents and prime ministers, human rights defenders, and political activists, but also all of us. We should all contribute to this.

How ?! Very easy. We have a number of responsibilities as a citizen. First of all, we are also voters. It is our job to take an active part in all elections in our village, district, city and country, to support those who work for peace and reconciliation and to give peace to the world. Let no one stand outside in this struggle. This is a struggle for all of us.

We must fight to change ourselves, change our country and change the world. We must fight for democracy and human rights to win in the world.