

# THE COMMISSION ON ETHICS OF HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS

## DECISION

ON

INITIATING PROCEEDINGS ON THE BASIS OF THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY  
A. SAKUNTS - CHAIRMAN OF “HELSINKI CITIZENS’ ASSEMBLY VANADZOR  
OFFICE” NGO

5-A

Yerevan city

April 9, 2013

The Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking Officials composed of E. Babayan (Chairman), A. Shushyan (Deputy chairman), L. Petrosyan, A. Khudaverdyan, A. Sargsyan (hereinafter referred to as: the Commission), in accordance with Article 44 of the RA Law on Public Service, has discussed the application of Artur Sakunts – the chairman of “Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly Vanadzor Office” NGO (hereinafter referred to as: the Applicant) on violation of ethics rules by Samvel Darbinyan - the head of the RA Vanadzor community and on subjecting him to disciplinary sanction.

In the application it was, in particular, mentioned that on February 21, 2013 an article with the title “It was not the defeat of our leader, it was rather the unconsciousness of our people: Vanadzor mayor” was released on “Hetq Online” website where the Vanadzor mayor – Samvel Darbinyan, who belongs to Republican Party of Armenia, has commented on the defeat of the leader of the Republican Party in the third largest city of the republic and said “It was not the defeat of our leader, it was rather the unconsciousness of our people that the people don’t understand what they do”. According to the Applicant, the author of the article has asked the mayor, whether maybe the local structures of the Republican Party had some shortcomings in election campaign and on the voting day, and the head of Vanadzor community has given the following answer: “No, everything was normal. The people just don’t understand what they should do in order to have better life. The people always want to start from zero, and starting from zero, they always come to +1”.

According to the Applicant “... The Vanadzor mayor has in his interview, given to “Hetq Online” website, called “unconscious” the population of his community, who have elected him as a community head and thus have empowered him to act on their behalf and present their interests, stating that “...The people just don’t understand what they should do in order to have better life”.

In Applicant's opinion, the use of such expressions by the community head violates the provisions of the norms cited in the application and insults the dignity of the people, who have elected him as a community head and granted him with a number of powers. The Applicant also states that the community head has disrespected the public moral norms with his actions, has expressed behaviour that does not conform to his position, and has shown disrespectful attitude towards his community population.

The Applicant demands from the Commission to subject the Vanadzor mayor – Samvel Darbinyan to disciplinary sanction within the scope of its competences.

On the basis of the application of Artur Sakunts – the chairman of “Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly Vanadzor Office” NGO and being guided by Article 44 of the RA Law on Public Service:

the Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking Officials

#### **HAS HEREBY DECIDED**

- 1. to initiate proceedings on the basis of the application of Artur Sakunts – the chairman of “Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly Vanadzor Office” NGO;**
- 2. to suggest Samvel Darbinyan – the head of RA Vanadzor community to submit his objections and clarifications in ten days after receiving this decision.**

**Chairperson of the Commission**

**E. Babayan**