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**Statement of the EaP CSF Armenian National Platform**

**On the arrest of ANP members**

30.07.2016

Yesterday on the 29th of July citizens participating in the peaceful protests in support of the group of rebels “Sasna Tsrer” were subjected to unprecedented violence resulting from the disproportionate use of force and unlawful actions of the police of the RA. Police with unprecedented brutality have attacked unarmed peaceful citizens, as well as many journalists.

According to official information 165 citizens have been detained without due justification, 26 persons were arrested among whom members of the Armenian National Platform of the EU Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, CSF Steering Committee member, head of “Free Citizen” NGO **Hovsep Khurshudyan** and head of “National Civic Initiative” NGO **Davit Sanasaryan**.

We, representatives of more than 220 EaP CSF Armenian National Platform member Civil Society Organizations demand from the authorities of the Republic of Armenia:

* To immediately release detained and arrested peaceful protesters
* To stop the unlawful acts of the police and violations of human rights
* To investigate the circumstances of disproportionate use of force by police, holding responsible those who ordered and those who implemented unlawful orders.