

## Armenia calls for deployment of UN-mandated peacekeepers to Nagorno-Karabakh



Addressing the UN Security Council emergency meeting on September 21, Armenian Foreign Minister called for deployment of UN-mandated peacekeeping force in Nagorno Karabakh.

“Now when Azerbaijan restarted to use force against Nagorno Karabakh, when people are forcefully deported from houses & are at danger to be forcefully deported from homeland, when situation is not about intent any more, but irrefutable evidences of mass atrocities, the UNSC must act,” Mirzoyan stated.

He noted that the position of Armenia remains unchanged “We should establish peaceful relations based on mutual recognition of sovereignty and territorial integrity, which certainly cannot be anyhow misinterpreted and used as license for mass atrocities, including ethnic cleansing in Nagorno Karabakh,” the Foreign Minister stated.

“Images from Nagorno Karabakh are truly shocking: women, kids, elderly left without shelter and food, moms desperately trying to find their lost children, wives crying from fear that

Azerbaijan may imprison their husbands. It’s hard to believe that all this is happening in 21st century,” Minister Mirzoyan stated.

**Below is the Foreign Minister’s speech in full:**

Mr. President,

Distinguished colleagues,

I thank the Security Council for convening this urgent meeting to discuss the security and humanitarian situation in Nagorno-Karabakh stemming from unprovoked and well-planned military attack by Azerbaijan.

While the UN General Assembly’s session is underway and all the members of international community are gathered here to look for ways to maintain peace and security worldwide, while we all speak about the imperative to condemn use of force, prevent further loss of human lives caused by man-made disasters, while each of us comes here to contribute to peace, in our region in South Caucasus

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## U.S. supports Armenia's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity – Blinken's Independence Day statement



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on September 21 congratulated the people of Armenia on Independence Day.

“On behalf of the United States of America, I send best wishes to the people of Armenia on your Independence Day,” Blinken said in a statement published by

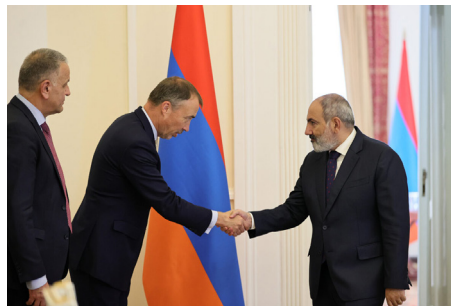
the State Department. “Armenia put itself on a path towards freedom and self-determination when it declared independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Since then, we have seen your commitment to democratic values, to developing and strengthening human rights, rule of law, economy, and justice for all Armenians. These values echo our own and we are proud to partner with Armenia in these areas. We will continue to support the Armenian people’s democratic aspirations, sovereignty, and security. The United States supports Armenia’s sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, and remains committed to promoting a durable and dignified peace for the South Caucasus region where the rights of all are respected. We look forward to continuing to grow our bilateral relationship and economic ties. I wish the Armenian people a prosperous and peaceful year ahead,” he added.

## PM Pashinyan, EU's Toivo Klaar discuss military-political situation around Nagorno-Karabakh

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received Toivo Klaar, the special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus and the Crisis in Georgia.

The head of the EU delegation to the Republic of Armenia, Ambassador Vassilis Maragos also participated in the meeting.

The military-political situation created around Nagorno-Karabakh and the steps



to overcome it were discussed.

The sides emphasized the need for guarantees for the security and rights of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Reference was also made to the situation on the Armenia-Azerbaijan border.

Thoughts were exchanged on the current cooperation between Armenia and the European Union.

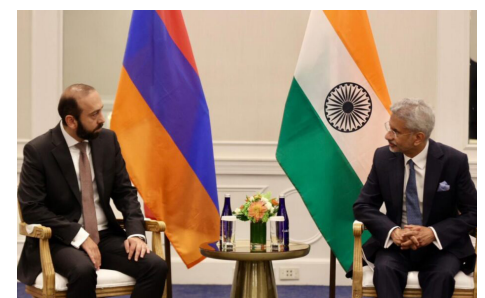
## Armenian, Indian FMs discuss Azerbaijani aggression against Nagorno Karabakh

On sidelines of 78th session of the UN General Assembly, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan met with his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

The interlocutors discussed the security situation in the South Caucasus

and Azerbaijani aggression in Nagorno Karabakh.

Minister Mirzoyan stressed the imperative for clear steps to restrain efforts aimed at destabilizing the region and prevent another ethnic cleansing.



## EU Warns Azerbaijan against attacking Armenia

European Council President Charles Michel has criticized Azerbaijan's latest military offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh and warned Baku against attacking Armenia as well, a senior European Union official said on September 21.

In a phone call on September 20, Michel also urged Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev to "urgently provide credible guarantees for the rights and security of Karabakh Armenians."

The official said Michel told Aliyev that the Azerbaijani military operation caused a "negative resonance at the international level, including in the EU where there were discussions this morning on the different options in terms of response."

"The means Baku used are simply not acceptable," Michel said, according to him.

"He also stressed that any intention to use force against Armenia would be unacceptable," added the official.

In his words, Aliyev assured Michel that Azerbaijan has no territorial claims to Armenia, reaffirming mutual recognition of each other's territorial integrity agreed during talks with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan hosted by Michel earlier this year.

The phone conversation took place hours after Russian peacekeepers brokered a fresh ceasefire to stop the fighting that displaced much of Karabakh's ethnic Armenian population. As part of that deal, Karabakh agreed to disband and disarm its armed forces, essentially paving the way for the restoration of full Azerbaijani control over the region. Few of its

residents are expected to stay in Karabakh in that case.

The EU official said Michel also urged Baku to declare 'amnesty' for the Karabakh Armenians. 'For those who wish to leave Nagorno-Karabakh, conditions must be put in place for a safe dignified and voluntary exit,' he quoted the EU leader as saying.

"Azerbaijan must ensure that ethnic Armenians will be respected and there is a future for them in Azerbaijan. A role for the international community is needed to ensure safety," the official said.

He added that Aliyev rejected such a role while pledging to "consider amnesty for those who lay their arms down."

## Armenia's territorial integrity is threatened, warns French President and vows support

France is highly vigilant in issues concerning Armenia's territorial integrity and stands by the Armenian people, French President Emmanuel Macron has said.

In an interview for BFM channel, the French President spoke about the September 19-20 large-scale Azeri attack in Nagorno-Karabakh.

"In the past days we witnessed unacceptable crimes and hostilities taking place in Karabakh," he said, adding that France will continue to mobilize around humanitarian issues in order to provide humanitarian aid to the population of Nagorno-Karabakh.

"We are providing political support, in order for it to be possible to reach lasting peace through negotiations," President Macron said.

He warned that Armenia's territorial integrity is now in danger.



"Today, France is highly vigilant in the issue of Armenia's territorial integrity, because this is what's threatened. We now have Russia, who is complicit with Azerbaijan, there's Turkey, who has always

supported its [Azerbaijan's] actions," Macron warned, adding that France stands by the Armenian people and international law.

## We cannot look away from what is happening in Nagorno-Karabakh: French FM says any use of force must be excluded

France requested an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council given the seriousness of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna said addressing the Council.

“After having amassed a large number of troops and military equipment for several weeks, Azerbaijan decided, on September 19, to launch a large-scale military operation. An operation which mobilized massive land and air resources, which affected the civilian population. An operation which no one can believe was not premeditated, even though efforts towards a negotiated solution were intensifying and the day before, for the first time in three months, the delivery of Humanitarian aid had resumed,” Minister said.

“France immediately condemned, with all firmness, this unacceptable offensive which contravenes the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. France is far from being the only one. Many countries present around this table also marked their clear refusal of violence and arbitrariness, calling on Azerbaijan to show restraint and comply with international law,” he noted.

“As was feared, the toll of these actions was particularly heavy, causing several hundred injuries and dozens of deaths, including civilians, including several children. A ceasefire was announced yesterday. It was essential. It is essential that it is respected,” Mrs. Colonna stated.

“It is not the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan that is at stake here. Nobody disputes it. Nobody threatens it. What is at stake is the possibility for the Armenian populations of Nagorno-Karabakh to be able to continue to live there with



respect for their rights, their history and their culture. Such a guarantee cannot exist when the strongest exercises deliberate constraint on the weakest, when the threat of permanent military intervention weighs, and when Nagorno-Karabakh has been the subject, for several months now, of a blockade which prevents the population from obtaining food, medicine and energy,” she emphasized.

The Minister said that if Azerbaijan is truly interested in reaching a peaceful, negotiated solution, it must now provide tangible guarantees:

- engage in good faith in the discussions, excluding any use of force or any threat of use of force and accepting that this dialogue concerns the rights and guarantees of the population, with the support of the international community;
- ensure amnesty to the forces who accepted the ceasefire;
- restore, without delay and unconditionally, traffic through the Lachin corridor, in accordance with the order issued by the International Court of Justice on February 22, 2023, and since confirmed by the Court;

Finally, it must accept an international humanitarian presence in Nagorno-Karabakh. This is essential as winter approaches.

“Without these guarantees, there will be no solution,” Catherine Colonna stated.

“This is unfortunately not the first time that France has alerted this Council to the seriousness of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. This is not the first time that she has called for mobilization to avoid a human tragedy and a worsening of this crisis which risks profoundly destabilizing the South Caucasus region,” the Minister said.

“The events of recent days confirm this: we cannot remain passive and look away from what is currently happening in Nagorno-Karabakh, at the risk of making ourselves complicit in the mass exodus of a population which is already very distressed. Several reports since yesterday indicate numerous departures in preparation even though nearly 10% of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh was displaced due to the offensive led by Azerbaijan on September 19,” she stated.

“This Council must actively contribute to resolving the crisis. It must defend the principles of the Charter and international security by actively supporting the definition of the parameters of a negotiated solution between Baku and the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh. It must clearly state its determination to uphold international law, at all times and in all places. And it must remain vigilant in the face of any attempt to drag Armenia into these tragic events and to use them as a pretext to call into question its territorial integrity,” the French Minister said.

“Prime Minister Pashinyan has shown in recent months his sense of responsibility, his desire for de-escalation and his commitment to finding a negotiated solution with Azerbaijan, based on the recognition and respect of the territorial sovereignty of each party,” she concluded.

## Germany condemns Azeri attack in Nagorno-Karabakh

Germany condemns Azerbaijan's attack in Nagorno-Karabakh and calls on Baku to cease its military operations once and for all, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said at the UN Security Council meeting.

"We strongly condemn Baku's military attack and we call on it to cease military operations once and for all. We note the reports on a ceasefire, but we need the violence to stop completely. Azerbaijan bears responsibility to fully protect the civilian population, especially children who live in Nagorno-Karabakh. Displacement

and forced migration of ethnic Armenians from Karabakh is unacceptable. Having said this, I want to reiterate several decisions made by this body in the past. The sovereignty and territorial integrity of both Armenia and Azerbaijan should not be questioned," the German FM said.

She stated that authorities in Baku have blocked Lachin Corridor and store shelves in NK are empty.

"Baku and Karabakh Armenians must return to dialogue," the German FM added.

Annalena Baerbock said that the population of Nagorno-Karabakh deserves



to live in safety, where their rights are protected.

"I want to underscore that no country should use the current situation to destabilize Armenia's democracy," the German FM added.

## European Court indicates interim measures to Azerbaijan



On 22 September 2023, the European Court of Human Rights applied Rule 39

under Rules of Court, considering that the current situation in Nagorno-Karabakh gives rise to a risk of serious violations of the Convention, the Office of Armenia's Representative on International Legal Matters informs.

The Court decided, notwithstanding the ceasefire agreement reached on 20 September 2023, to indicate to the Government of Azerbaijan to refrain from

taking any measures which might entail breaches of their obligations under the Convention, notably Article 2 (right to life) and Article 3 (prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment).

The Court also decided to give immediate notice of the above interim measure to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in accordance with Rule 39 § 2.

## MEPs call for EU sanctions on Azerbaijan, say condemnation not enough

Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) denounced the EU's inaction in response to the unfolding Nagorno-Karabakh crisis on September 20 calling on the bloc to impose economic sanctions on Azerbaijan, Euronews reports.

"The EU should act, impose sanctions, including stopping the imports of gas," Reinhard Bütikofer, German MEP for the Greens group, told Euronews.

On Tuesday, Baku launched a large-scale assault against Nagorno-Karabakh, which saw at least 200 people killed.

The EU has condemned the aggression but has not introduced any retaliatory measures. The bloc recently signed a new deal to double EU imports of Azerbaijani gas by 2027, with EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen calling Baku a "trustworthy" partner.

In a debate in the European Parliament

on Wednesday, MEPs from all political colors claimed the EU has been slow to react to Armenia's pleas for aid since Azerbaijani forces blockaded the Lachin corridor nine months ago, preventing essential supplies such as food, medicine and fuel from reaching the population.

They also called for economic and trade sanctions as well as the suspension of all bilateral relations with Baku.

"We have been unable to prevent an assault that we saw was coming," Nathalie Loiseau said.

"Mediation has been a total failure. We have never named the aggressor. We have ignored the Armenian prime minister when he called for our help," she added.

Loiseau also echoed Armenia's Pashinyan who warned that Baku is pursuing its policy of ethnic cleansing. "Our weakness and passivity have made us accomplices



of this," she said.

Parliamentarians were also scathingly critical of the EU's cozy deals with Azerbaijani Premier Ilham Aliyev.

MEPs said the EU's gas bill from Baku was directly funding Azerbaijan's aggression and campaign of ethnic cleansing.

MEPs also expressed concerns that gas reaching Europe from Azerbaijan was "de facto Russian gas," and called for urgent investigations into the origin of gas imported through the southern corridor.

## EU must better protect Armenia, including through economic support and visa liberalization, Member of Bundestag says



The European Union must better protect the young democracy in Armenia from its enemies through a strengthened EU mission for security and peace, massive economic support, visa liberalization and

deeper political cooperation, Chairman of the German Bundestag's Committee on Foreign Affairs Michael Roth said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

"We are in solidarity with democratic Armenia," he said.

Commenting on the latest large-scale aggression of Azerbaijan against Nagorno Karabakh, the lawmaker said: "A bitter conclusion for Armenia and the EU: Azerbaijan relied on the law of the strongest, not on the strength of the law. And it has brutally prevailed. Armenia has been warning of Azerbaijan military action for weeks. We looked the other way and

trivialized it."

"If the EU does not finally recognize its strategic interest in the South Caucasus region, there is a risk of a new war. Russia has abandoned Armenia and wants to coup away the democratic PM Pashinyan. Turkey is keeping its protective hands over the Aliyev regime," Roth noted.

"On this basis, we cannot cooperate more closely economically with Azerbaijan. We need pressure and a return to the negotiating table with the aim of both states finally recognizing each other's territorial integrity and refraining from violence," he stated.

## EU provides additional €500,000 in humanitarian aid to conflict-affected people in Nagorno Karabakh



The European Commission is mobilizing €500,000 in humanitarian aid to support the populations affected by the escalation of hostilities in Nagorno Karabakh.

Fleeing the violence, thousands of people are now displaced and in need of assistance. EU humanitarian aid will help

the affected people cover their basic needs through cash assistance, while providing them also with shelter and psychosocial support.

This emergency funding comes in addition to the €1.17 million of humanitarian aid the EU allocated to the Nagorno Karabakh crisis earlier this year.

Emphasizing the critical necessity of safe humanitarian access, Commissioner for Crisis Management, Janez Lenarčič, stated: "The escalation of the conflict in Nagorno Karabakh has had serious repercussions to the civilians. In response, the EU is mobilizing additional €500 000 in emergency humanitarian aid to support the people displaced. We are closely monitoring the situation on the ground and stand ready to offer more assistance.

While the EU welcomes the ceasefire, I strongly urge all parties of the conflict to ensure unimpeded and immediate access to humanitarian organizations. We must make sure that humanitarian workers can provide emergency relief to the people in need."

The EU is in close contact with its humanitarian partners on the ground and stands ready to address the growing humanitarian needs in case of further escalation.

"We have been supporting humanitarian operations in Armenia and Azerbaijan with more than €21 million since the large-scale escalation of the conflict in 2020," the European Commission says.

## Armenian, Azerbaijani, EU officials to prepare leaders' meeting in Granada scheduled for October 5



Armenian Security Council Secretary Armen Grigoryan will pay a working visit to Brussels, the capital of Belgium.

On September 26, the Security Council Secretary is scheduled to meet with advisers to French President Emmanuel

Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, EU Council President Charles Michel and Assistant to Azerbaijani President Hikmet Hajiyev to prepare the leaders' meeting scheduled for October 5 in Granada.

## Armenia committed to agreements, including in terms of opening of roads



Armenia never agreed and will never agree to any extraterritorial corridor logic, the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures Gnel Sanosyan told ARMENPRESS in response to a query.

ARMENPRESS: Mr. Sanosyan, recently Turkish and Azerbaijani officials have been more frequently speaking about the

so-called Zangezur Corridor. How would you comment on this, and has the position of Armenia changed after the latest events?

Sanosyan: Armenia never agreed and will never agree to any extraterritorial or corridor logic. On the other hand, we are committed to the agreements reached at the high level. During the latest meeting of the Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders, which took place on July 15 this year in Brussels, the following agreements were reiterated:

Armenia and Azerbaijan recognize each other's territorial integrity, with the territory of 29,8 and 86,6 thousand square kilometers respectively.

The border delimitation between Armenia and Azerbaijan shall take place based on the 1991 Alma-Ata Declaration.

Regional connections shall be unblocked based on the principle of sovereignty, jurisdiction and reciprocity of the parties.

These agreements are public and have been published by the President of the European Council Charles Michel after the meeting. Within the framework of this agreement, the Republic of Armenia not only is ready for the unblocking of connections, but also desires it to happen as soon as possible, because it stems from our interests.

## Re-exports comprise 187% of 215% growth in exports from Armenia to Russia, says finance minister

Re-exports significantly contributed to the nearly 215% growth (in dollars) of the exports from Armenia to Russia in the first half of 2023, Finance Minister Vahe Hovhannisyan told lawmakers at the financial-credit and budgetary affairs committee session in parliament during a discussion of the state budget performance.

The big inflow of persons and capital from Russia continued in the first half of the year, he said.



"In the first half of 2023, compared to the same period of last year, re-exports contributed significantly, by nearly 187

percentage points, to the nearly 215 percent dollar growth in the exports of goods to Russia, whereas the exports of Armenian-made goods contributed by 28 percentage points," the finance minister said.

Hovhannisyan also spoke about the growth in the number of tourists from Russia, stating that the number of inbound tourists in the first half of the year grew 70%, with 47% being from Russia.

## Armenia economic activity index grows 10,4% in eight months

The economic activity index of Armenia grew 10,4% in January-August 2023 compared to the same period of 2022, according to data published by the Statistical Committee.

Industrial production volume decreased 0,1%.

Construction volume grew 17,3%.

Trade turnover grew 23,1% and services grew 14,8%.

The consumer price index increased 3,1%, while the industrial product price index grew 0,9%.

Electricity production dropped 2,6%.

Foreign trade grew 53% (exports grew 51,8% while imports grew 53,8%).



## First refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh arrive to Armenia



The first group of the evacuated persons from Nagorno-Karabakh has arrived to Armenia, a local official in the Tegh Municipality of Syunik Province, Arshaluys Avetisyan said Armenpress.

The refugees are being met in the International Committee of the Red Cross center in Kornidzor.

“Right now, a registration process is

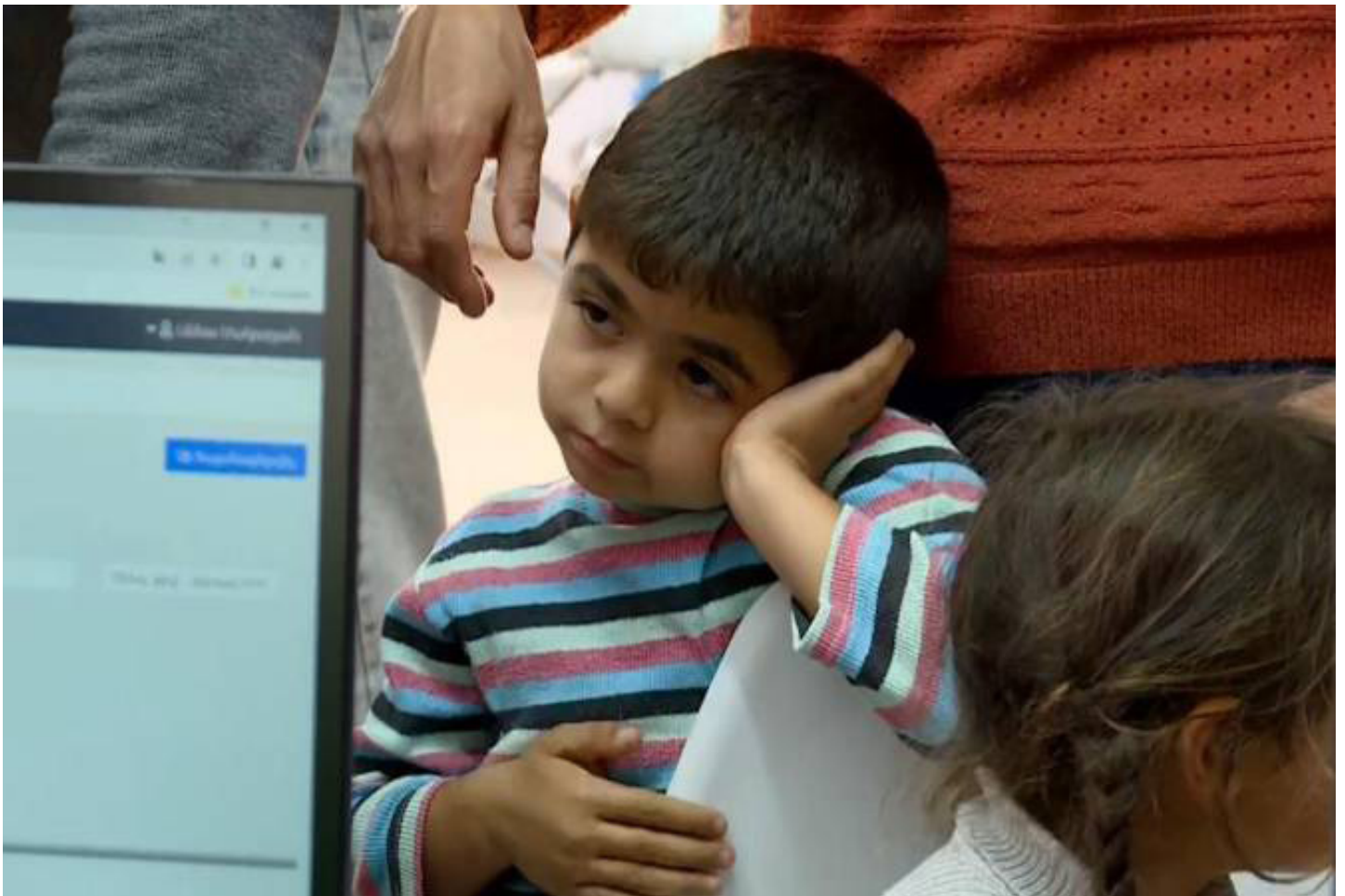
underway, their priority needs are being assessed,” Avetisyan added.

As of September 25, 12:00 pm, 4 850 forcibly displaced persons entered Armenia from Nagorno-Karabakh, the government reports.

The registration of 3 900 people has

been completed, the need assessment for 950 is still in process.

The Government provides accommodation to all those, who have no place to live.





## Lemkin Institute accuses world leaders of complicity in destruction of 4000-year-old civilization in Artsakh

The Lemkin Institute says it will never allow today's world leaders to forget their complicity in destroying a 4000 year old people and civilization in Artsakh.

"There's no "genocide prevention" in the US, the EU, NATO, or the UN, despite all the trainings, symposia, books, and speeches. We had hope that in this one instance, this perfect storm for Genocide Prevention, there

would be that one courageous voice in a position of serious power who would do the right thing," the Institute said in a statement.

"But, of course, we have no real leaders in the world today. They have no fear that they will one day be targeted by this horror, so they don't much care. They go



to sleep in smug comfort. It's really up to the ordinary people of the world to unite and bring an end to this never ending lust for power and resources that destroys everything in its wake," it added.

"No ordinary people benefit from genocide. Not one ordinary person in the world benefits from the heartbreak

of the old man in this photo. Even if their criminal leaders tell them they do, they don't. What did they trade for this great chance to participate in genocide? Freedom? Dignity? Rights? Transparency? Good governance? Morality? All of the above? No, they do not profit," the statement reads.

"But there are many people in global capitals, at BP, in governments who

are already reaping the benefits! And wow, what benefits! Resources, access, power! Who cares if a 4000 year old civilization is lost forever?! Armenians be damned!" the Lemkin Institute said.

"We must all unite to change this equation — and we must do so fast," it concluded.

## The world should know what's happening: Sen. Peters visits entrance to Lachin corridor

I'm, very concerned about what's happening in Nagorno Karabakh now, US Senator Gary Peters told reporters as he visited the entrance to the Lachin corridor, where trucks with humanitarian aid from Armenia and France have been stranded for months now.

"People are really fearful of what could happen there. I think the world needs to know what's happening," the Senator said.

"We hear from the Azerbaijani government there is nothing to see, nothing to worry about," he said, adding that international observers should be allowed to



see exactly what's happening.

"I've talked to many people, they are very concerned about their loved ones, families. They have been suffering as a result of the blockade over many months,

shortages of food, medical supplies, basic necessities, gasoline and petrol. It's a dire situation from what I have heard, and I'm very concerned, and I'll certainly take it back to my colleagues in US Senate," the Senator said.

Gary Peters added that it's necessary to push to get international observers to get there and see exactly what's happening and to make sure that the people of Nagorno Karabakh are treated with dignity, respect, and their rights are preserved.

"We're going to continue to push for that," he pledged.

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on 19th September Azerbaijan unleashed yet another large-scale offensive against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, in blatant violation of the international law and Trilateral Statement of November 9, 2020. Literally the whole territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, Stepanakert and other cities and settlements came under intense and indiscriminate shelling with use of missiles, heavy artillery, combat UAVs and aviation, including prohibited cluster munition. The intensity and cruelty of the offensive makes it clear that the intention is to finalize ethnic cleansing of the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Outcomes of this large-scale military operation clearly reveal their atrocious nature. Yet they are very preliminary as due to the targeted attacks against critical infrastructure, such as electricity stations, telephone cables and stations and internet equipment, the population is completely cut-off from each other and is deprived of the possibility to present the real-time situation on the ground. Also, Azerbaijani troops control main roads in Nagorno-Karabakh which makes it impossible to visit and get information on the ground.

For the time being there are confirmed cases of more than 200 killed and 400 wounded, including among civilian population, women and children, also accepted today by the Azerbaijani Ministry of Foreign Affairs. More than ten thousand persons became forcibly displaced, including women, children, and elderly, who stay in the open air, without food and other means for subsistence. Thousands of families have been separated. Add to this around twenty thousand displaced persons from the 2020 war to see that there are enormous humanitarian needs on the ground.

People are still starving due to the severe shortages of food imposed by the ongoing 10-month blockade.

The healthcare system has been paralyzed. Hospitals have no electricity and are in a critical shortage of medicine. People are deprived of the opportunity to receive even first aid. Without fuel, ambulances cannot operate to take the wounded to hospitals.

The images coming from Nagorno-Karabakh are truly shocking: women, children, elderly people left without shelter and food, moms desperately trying to find their lost children, wives crying from fear that Azerbaijan may imprison their husbands. It's hard to believe that

all this is happening not a hundred years ago but today in front of the international community in the 21st century. The social media is full of Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh searching for their children or relatives. The children that suddenly appeared to stay in shelters or even streets continue crying and asking their parents to take them home, refusing to recognize that they do not have a home anymore. During the shelling an eight-year boy has gone missing in one of the settlements of Nagorno-Karabakh, his brother ten years old was killed and his body has not been even possible to take out from the village. The other brother was injured. These are only examples of numerous cases. In the eyes of Azerbaijan these children are terrorists, and Azerbaijan's actions, missiles, armored vehicles, artillery and UAVs were directed against those children, their parents and grandparents.

The Azerbaijani social media segment is full of calls to find the missing children and women, to rape them, dismember and feed them to dogs. Azerbaijani users are sharing the profiles of Armenian women from Nagorno-Karabakh on social media making biddings on who will get those women to rape, when they are taken under Azerbaijani custody.

Colleagues,

This was feasible, the clear signs were there. We have been alarming for a long time now. The international community refused to take it seriously enough.

The current aggression came as a culmination of a 10-months-long blockade of the Lachin corridor and forced starvation imposed on the people of Nagorno-Karabakh. Severe shortage of food, medicine, fuel, natural gas, electricity and other essential goods had already brought the vulnerable people of Nagorno-Karabakh to the brink of humanitarian catastrophe. One should be naive to think that this was not precisely thought through ever since or even before the institutionalization of the inhumane blockade with the aim of bringing down the will and ability of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh to resist and maintain their lives and livelihood in their ancestral homeland. The Azerbaijani aggression that unfolded with explicit barbarity and deliberate targeting of civilian populations and infrastructure was the final act of this tragedy aimed at the forced exodus of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh.

When Azerbaijan blocked the Lachin cCorridor and we called for urgent meeting of the UNSC in December 2022 – this

Council failed to react adequately,

When the International Court of Justice on February 22 and July 6, 2023, adopted legally binding orders and they were disrespected by Azerbaijan- this Council as an august body meant to ensure the implementation of ICJ orders failed to react adequately,

When in April Azerbaijan installed illegal check-point in the Lachin cCorridor and later started to kidnap people, including ones under the protection of international humanitarian law,- international community failed to undertake adequate measures,

When Armenia called again for another UNSC urgent session in August 2023 – warning about the fragile security and humanitarian situation and calling the Council to use its toolbox to address all the issues and not let people of Nagorno-Karabakh behind, this Council failed to react adequately,

During the days prior to September 19's Azerbaijani aggression when Armenia was raising alarm about feasible use of force by Azerbaijan and seeking for concrete measures and actions to prevent this scenario – international community reacted to our warning with skepticism.

Now when Azerbaijan has already restarted to use force against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, when these this people are forcefully deported from their houses and are at danger to be forcefully deported from their homeland, when many who have been defending their families and their right to live in freedom and dignity in their homeland for the last 30 years are at danger of mass arrests and prosecution, when we have a situation where there is not an intent any more, but clear and irrefutable evidences of policy of ethnic cleansing and mass atrocities – the Security Council of the United Nations must act.

Despite accepting all demands of the Azerbaijani side in order to stop the bloodshed and ongoing talks today, the people of Nagorno-Karabakh were again subjected to attacks using different caliber weapons and mortars, thus forcing the civilians once again to seek shelter in the basements. We believe such attacks and further persecutions will continue unless there is a clear international action.

By the way, regarding the mentioned demands, I would like to state very clearly and unequivocally that the Republic of Armenia was not part of those

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page 10 discussions and we resolutely reiterate that the claims and references to the presence of any military personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia in Nagorno-Karabakh do not correspond to reality.

In this attempt we clearly see the intention of some actors to involve the Republic of Armenia in military actions thus transferring the hostilities into our sovereign territories. The position of Armenia firmly remains the same: we should establish peaceful relations based on mutual recognition of sovereignty and territorial integrity, which certainly cannot be anyhow misinterpreted and used as a license for mass atrocities, including ethnic cleansings in Nagorno-Karabakh. The rights and security of the Armenian people of Nagorno-Karabakh must be properly addressed and internationally guaranteed.

There is also another very important aspect regarding the parties involved. As I noted some of you in your statements still make general calls to the sides of conflict. This approach and this terminology are not relevant any more. There are no more sides of the conflict but perpetrators and victims. There is no more conflict but a real danger of atrocity crime. Is it still possible to prevent it now? We are here because we believe so. Because we still believe in humanity, in international law and in the ability of the Security Council to act decisively when lives of thousands are at stake.

Mr. President,

Against this backdrop, time and again,

I appeal to the Security Council to demonstrate its credibility and reputation by undertaking the following urgent measures:

To condemn the resumption of hostilities and targeting of civilian settlements and infrastructure,

To demand full compliance with obligations under the international humanitarian law, including those related to the protection of civilians, in particular women and children, and critical civilian infrastructure;

To immediately deploy an interagency mission by the UN to Nagorno-Karabakh with the aim to monitor and assess the human rights, humanitarian and security situation.

To ensure unimpeded access of the UN agencies and other international organizations to Nagorno-Karabakh in line with the humanitarian principles.

To ensure full cooperation of the parties in good faith with the International Committee of the Red Cross to address the consequences of the military actions, including the removal and identification of the bodies, search and rescue of personnel missing in action, release of POWs, safe and unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance, in strict compliance with the international humanitarian law.

To ensure the return of persons displaced in the course of the recent aggression, as well as persons and refugees displaced as a result of 2020 war, to their homes in the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent regions under the monitoring and control of the UN relevant agencies, as it was foreseen in the Trilateral

Statement of November 9, 2020.

To ensure immediate restoration of vital supplies, including food, medicine, fuel, gas and electricity.

To demand the immediate restoration of freedom and security of movement of persons, vehicles and cargo, along the Lachin corridor, in line with the ICJ orders.

To ensure a sustainable international mechanism of dialogue between representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh and official Baku to address the issues related to rights and security of the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh.

To demand exit of any Azerbaijani military and law-enforcement bodies from all civilian settlements in Nagorno-Karabakh NK to exclude panic, provocations and escalation, endangering civilian population until the results of the negotiations.

To exclude punitive action against Nagorno-Karabakh NK political and military representatives and personnel.

Create a possibility for a United Nations-mandated Peacekeeping Force to keep stability and security in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Finally,

Mr. President,

Dear colleagues,

Let me mention that today we celebrate the Day of Independence of the Republic of Armenia and let me congratulate my compatriots on this very important and symbolic occasion.

And I thank you.

## US Senators introduce bill on sanctioning Aliyev and authorizing foreign military financing for Armenia



U.S. Senator Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, along with Senators Bill Cassidy (R-La.), Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), Alex

Padilla (D-Calif.), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), and Gary Peters (D-Mich.), introduced the bipartisan Supporting Armenians Against Azerbaijani Aggression Act. The legislation responds to the actions of the Government of Azerbaijan by providing humanitarian assistance to Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, preventing additional security assistance from going to the Government of Azerbaijan, and calling for additional accountability for alleged atrocities committed against Armenians.

Specifically, the bill would repeal the waiver authority for section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, banning most assistance to the Government of Azerbaijan. It would also authorize foreign military financing for Armenia, develop a strategy to ensure the security of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, and impose sanctions on the Aliyev regime for its actions against Armenians.

“President Aliyev has repeatedly shown he will stop at nothing to

page 11 ➡ eradicate Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh and threaten his neighbors,” said Chairman Menendez. “This urgent bipartisan legislation both solidifies our collective support for Armenians and sends a clear message to the people of Nagorno-Karabakh that the United States will not stand idly by while the Aliyev regime carries out its brutal campaigns of starvation and military action.”

“The Azeri government and President Aliyev used first a blockade and then an attack to force their will upon Nagorno-Karabakh,” said Dr. Cassidy. “Armenians suffered the first genocide of the 20th century, which opened the door for many of the horrors in this century. This is the latest episode of the use of force

to resolve things which should be done diplomatically.”

“Azerbaijan’s renewed attacks on Nagorno-Karabakh are unacceptable. The US and international community must act to end the blockade, halt Azerbaijan’s aggression against Armenians and hold those responsible accountable. This legislation sends a clear signal that we will not stand idly by in the face of these attacks,” said Senator Van Hollen.

“We cannot stand idly by as Azerbaijan takes escalatory steps to ethnically cleanse Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh. We must swiftly pass this legislation to provide immediate support to Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh and to ensure the Azerbaijani regime is held accountable for its grave human rights violations and

unprovoked acts of aggressions on Armenians in the region,” said Senator Padilla. “I will continue to work to create the conditions for lasting peace in the region.”

“America can’t stand idly by as brutal violence perpetrated by the authoritarian regime in Azerbaijan raises the specter of genocide in Nagorno-Karabakh,” said Whitehouse. “This legislation imposes stiff sanctions that will help hold the Azerbaijani government accountable for its clear human rights violations, while authorizing much-needed humanitarian assistance to Nagorno-Karabakh and the people of Armenia.”

Full text of the bill is available [here](#)

## Armenia marks 32nd anniversary of independence



On September 21, 1991 Armenia held a nationwide referendum, which saw over 99 percent of voters approve the republic’s commitment to independence. Two days later, on September 23, the Supreme Council proclaimed Armenia an independent state.

The first President was elected through a nationwide election in November 1991.

On December 21, 1991, Armenia joined the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

The adoption of the Constitution on

July 5, 1995 became one of the most remarkable events in the process of state-building. It contributed to and greatly strengthened the legal bases for transition from a totalitarian system to a democratic state.

Peaceful, democratic, prosperous, creative and happy future of the Republic of Armenia is the goal for which we endure these trials, for which we walk this path, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said in a congratulatory message on the 32nd anniversary of independence.

Below is the statement in full:

Dear people, dear compatriots,

Today we celebrate the 32nd anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Armenia. Independence, having an independent state, is the highest form of self-expression of any people, and it is often granted at the cost of many trials

and sufferings.

This is also true for us. In the referendum of September 21, 1991, the people of the Republic of Armenia said “Yes” to Independence. But as it turned out later, this was the easiest part of the road to Independence. The people of the Republic of Armenia later had to face economic and political crises, wars and poverty. It is in this whirlwind and passing through trials that we realized that declaring independence is one thing, conquering and strengthening it is completely different.

The sufferings and trials we have endured in recent years are an integral part of the struggle for the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Armenia. Lately, when conducting foreign and regional policy I have often been criticized for relying on the Alma-Ata Declaration of December, 1991 and related documents,

which were also signed by the Republic of Armenia.

Many are calling directly and indirectly to abandon the policy based on that document. The issue is that the Alma-Ata Declaration and related documents are one of the fundamental factors of the independence of the Republic of Armenia, which records the political and legal basis for 12 former USSR republics, including the Republic of Armenia, gaining independence from the Soviet Union, as well as the fundamental principles of that independence.

And therefore, calls to abandon politics based on that document are calls to abandon Armenia's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, with all the consequences arising from this.

Dear people, dear compatriots,

Today we are living in difficult times, suffering untold physical and psychological suffering. But it is important to understand why we have to go through this path of trials. To say that for the sake of

Independence means to say a large part of the truth, but not the most important part. Because independence, no matter how high a goal, is actually a means to achieve a higher goal. It is about the happiness of our future generations.

We must inherit them an Armenia where people can freely express themselves, build their own happiness through free and creative work.

Even today, many conditions contributing to this are present in Armenia: democracy, freedom of economic and any legal activity, equality of all before the law, principled anti-corruption policy, economic activity are necessary but not sufficient conditions for this.

For these conditions to be complete, peace, that is, a conflict-free environment, is necessary. Peace is a factor that ensures and guarantees security as well as independence and sovereignty.

Many believe that in this tense regional environment, in the face of occasional military conflicts, it is not adequate to talk

about peace. But particularly in these conditions, peace should be valued and peace should not be confused with a truce or a ceasefire. Peace is an environment that is free from conflicts, inter-state, inter-ethnic conflicts.

This path is not easy, it goes through external and internal shocks, and we must go through this path for the sake of independence, for the sake of statehood, for the sake of the future.

In the summer of 2021, with your vote, I was elected the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia with the motto "There is a future". The peaceful, democratic, prosperous, creative and happy future of the Republic of Armenia is the goal for which we endure these trials, for which we walk this path.

I congratulate everyone on the occasion of Independence Day.

Glory to the martyrs and long live the Republic of Armenia.

Long live the Republic of Armenia!

## Menendez steps down as Senate Foreign Relations chairman after indictment

Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) will step down from his position as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee following an indictment that was unsealed on Friday, The Hill reports.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) announced the move Friday afternoon.

Under Democratic Conference rules, a member in a leadership position or with a chair must resign if charged with a felony, but can be reinstated if the charges are cleared or dropped to a lesser charge.

"Bob Menendez has been a dedicated

public servant and is always fighting hard for the people of New Jersey. He has a right to due process and a fair trial," Schumer said in the statement.

"Senator Menendez has rightly decided to step down temporarily from his position as Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee until the matter has been resolved."

Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.), as the most senior Democrat on the panel, is likely to move into the chairmanship role. Cardin announced in May that he will retire at the end of his term in 2025 and it's possible that the third-ranking Democrat on the

committee, Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), could also be considered for the chair.

The committee is unlikely to see any major hiccups in operations if Menendez is allowed to retain his seat on the committee while not serving as chair.

Menendez faces three counts, including conspiracy to commit extortion under color of official right, a charge for public officials who take bribes in return for official acts, with allegations of bribery linked to his work on the committee. He was charged alongside his wife, Nadine Menendez, and three other businesspeople.

## Verein der Völkermordgegner e.V. Frankfurt am Main

### DRINGENDER AUFRUF !!!

an die Verteidiger der Menschenrechte, Institutionen, Parlamente und Regierungen in Deutschland, Europa und auf der ganzen Welt:

Stoppen Sie den ethnischen Vernichtungskrieg des aserbaidischen Staates gegen das Volk von Artsakh (Berg-Karabach)...

Sehen Sie nicht tatenlos zu, wie Zehntausende von Menschen erneut einem Völkermord zum Opfer fallen!

Nun bombardiert der aserbaidische Staat die Stadt Stephanakert, um die Zivilbevölkerung zur Flucht und zur Migration zu zwingen, nachdem er durch die neunmonatige Blockade zwischen Artsakh (Berg-Karabach) und Armenien eine menschliche Tragödie verursacht hat, bei dem Kinder, Kranke und alte Menschen, also Zehntausende von Zivilisten dem Hunger, der Kälte, und Krankheiten ausgeliefert wurden und ihre dringendsten menschlichen Bedürfnisse nicht befriedigt werden konnten.

120.000 Menschen, darunter 30.000 Kinder, 2.000 schwangere Frauen und 20.000 alte Menschen, die aufgrund der Blockade unter Hunger, Unterernährung und dem Entzug aller lebenswichtigen Produkte und Güter leiden, sind nun einer groß angelegten Terroroperation ausgesetzt, die die aserbaidischen

Streitkräfte am 19. September 2023 - zusätzlich zu der umfassenden Abriegelung des Gebietes - durchgeführt haben. Dies ist nichts anderes als eine ethnische Ausrottung und Völkermord, den Aserbaidisch am helllichten Tag begeht. Die gesamte Bevölkerung von Artsakh lebt weiterhin in Kellern in der Kälte, ohne Strom, abgeschnitten von der Kommunikation, von Nahrung und Heizung. Die aserbaidische Luftwaffe greift die zivile Infrastruktur und die Zivilbevölkerung weiterhin mit Drohnen und intensivem Artilleriebeschuss an. Gegenwärtig werden die zivilen Bevölkerungszentren in Artsakh wahllos bombardiert. Dies ist die Grausamkeit des aserbaidischen Regimes.

Die Existenz des armenischen Volkes wird 108 Jahre später von denselben Tätern bedroht... Die Parlamente vieler europäischer Länder, darunter Deutschland, Frankreich und die Vereinigten Staaten, sowie viele Länder auf der ganzen Welt, haben Resolutionen verabschiedet, in denen der Völkermord am armenischen Volk von 1915 anerkannt und verurteilt wird. Dies war eine Hoffnung auf die Verhinderung von neuen Völkermorden, auf die Heilung der Wunden und auf Gerechtigkeit. Heute jedoch versuchen die Türkei und Aserbaidisch, im Einklang

mit ihren gemeinsamen politischen und militärischen Strategien, die Region frei von Armeniern zu machen, indem sie jede Gelegenheit und jedes Mittel nutzen, um den Völkermord von 1915 fortzusetzen.

Die Länder, die den Völkermord anerkennen, haben auch eine große humanitäre Verantwortung übernommen, um die Existenz dieser bedrohten Nation zu schützen. Die internationale Gemeinschaft muss dringend handeln, um ein weiteres Verbrechen gegen die Menschlichkeit zu verhindern!

Da keine stabilen Kommunikationsmittel und kein Treibstoff vorhanden sind, gibt es keine zuverlässigen Informationen aus der Region, und die düstere Lage der Bevölkerung ist weitgehend unbekannt. Internationale Friedenstruppen und Beobachter müssen dringend in die Region entsandt werden, und es muss dringend eine Luftbrücke eingerichtet werden, um die Bevölkerung kontinuierlich und stabil mit humanitärer Hilfe zu versorgen.

Das Recht des Volkes von Artsakh auf Selbstverwaltung und Selbstbestimmung muss respektiert werden, und die Republik Artsakh muss unverzüglich anerkannt und unter internationalen Schutz gestellt werden.

Soykırım Karşıtları Derneği, skd@gmx.net

## USAID to announce additional humanitarian assistance to forcibly displaced people of Nagorno-Karabakh

USAID will announce on September 26 additional humanitarian assistance to the forcibly displaced people of Nagorno-Karabakh. The support will also include financial assistance, USAID Administrator Samantha Power said September 25.

„Since hostilities reignited in 2020, the United States has provided more than \$24 million in humanitarian and development assistance in response to the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh – helping provide food, water and sanitation, medical care, child protection, psychosocial support, and emergency response. Tomorrow, I

will announce additional humanitarian assistance. Already, we are providing essential supplies like household and hygiene kits, blankets, and clothing to support people who have left their homes in Nagorno-Karabakh and need help right now. We are at the ready to provide food, cash, legal support, shelter, and protection services to those in need of assistance. We are working closely with local authorities who are providing supplies, and local communities who have opened up their hearts and their homes to those fleeing the violence.

„The people living in

Nagorno-Karabakh deserve an end to violence, they deserve to live in safety, and they deserve to maintain their Armenian cultural connections and the ability to move back and forth as they choose. The United States will continue to engage with Azerbaijani and Armenian leadership at the highest levels in pursuit of a lasting peace. And as we look to the future, we will also continue our partnership with the people of Armenia to cement democratic gains and drive economic growth, so that the latest attacks do not undermine the remarkable progress that Armenia has made in recent years,” Power said.

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