

February 1, 2023

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director General
World Health Organization
Ave Appia 20
1211 Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Dr. Gebreyesus:

We the undersigned are writing to ask you as Director General of WHO to make a statement about the humanitarian crisis developing in Nagorno-Karabakh (aka Artsakh).

Since December 12, 2022, a blockade of the Lachin Corridor - the only transport route connecting Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia and the outside world-has been instituted by the Azerbaijani regime in a hostile act using self-identified Azerbaijani environmental activists as cover. This blockade violates the 2020 ceasefire agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the Fourth Geneva Convention. Continuing well into its second month, the 120,000 indigenous Christian Armenians, including 30,000 children who live in the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, have been cut off from the rest of the world with devastating consequences.

The blockade has effectively prevented all transport of people and critical supplies in or out of the region. Life-saving medical supplies, food essentials, and heating fuel are at dangerously low levels. Rationing has been instituted; schools are closed. Most hospital patients needing critical care cannot receive the treatments needed. Pregnant women and infants are most vulnerable-one infant has already died in intensive care. This is a modern-day siege. Catastrophe is looming.

Azerbaijan has threatened to shoot down any air traffic going in or out, making an humanitarian airlift impossible.

The United States and the European Union have urged Azerbaijan to open the corridor to civilian traffic. A dozen NGOs have launched [Genocide Warning: Nagorno-Karabakh](#), stating, "All 14 risk factors for atrocity crimes identified by the UN Secretary-General's Office on Genocide Prevention are now present." [Genocide Watch](#) calls the regional situation a Genocide Emergency and

the Lemkin Institute has called the blockade a “[Red Flag Alert for Genocide](#).” (see attached below)

In accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention with which world powers must abide, we call on world leaders to condemn the blockade and to demand unrestricted humanitarian access through the Lachin Corridor for all -- including international humanitarian organizations and for Armenian citizens.

In addition, we ask all nations to halt arms sales to Azerbaijan and for the United States to rescind the waiver of Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act granted to Azerbaijan. (See below) Furthermore, we request that the United Nations use the powers it has to support United Nations international peacekeepers assigned to guard Nagorno-Karabakh borders to ensure the safety, security, and health of the 120,000 residents of this region to freely pursue their human rights as the indigenous population of Nagorno-Karabakh.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of this matter as Director General of WHO. Thank you.

Signed:

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Dean emeritus, Chobanian & Avedissian School of Medicine at Boston University

Karen Antman, MD,
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Amy Hagopian, Ph.D
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Richard Babayan, MD, *Emeritus Professor, Department of Urology*
Chobanian and Avedisian School of Medicine at Boston University

Pan Armenian Union of New England (*consortium of 21 Armenian*
organizations) *Shant Parseghian, MD President*

Vatché Minassian, MD, MPH
Chief of Urogynecology
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School

The Armenian American Health Professionals Organization (AAHPO) of
NY-NJ-CT., *President Lawrence V. Najarian, M.D.*

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<https://www.lemkininstitute.com/red-flag-alerts-1/red-flag-alert-for-genocide--azerbaijan-update-4>

Red Flag Alert for Genocide - Azerbaijan Update 4

On the morning of December 3, a group of Azerbaijanis in civilian clothes blocked the route Stepanakert-Goris, the only road that connects the Armenians of Artsakh with the Republic of Armenia. For more than two hours, approximately 120,000 Artsakh Armenians were isolated from Armenia proper and surrounded by

Azerbaijanis. After several hours of negotiation with the Azerbaijani regime, the route was finally reopened and communications were re-established. In light of this new development, the Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention is issuing another Red Flag Alert for Azerbaijan.

The Lemkin Institute reminds the international community that this recent siege of Artsakh is not an isolated event but one in a series of criminal actions carried out by the autocratic regime of Ilham Aliyev in Azerbaijan, which continue without serious opposition from the international community. The total impunity enjoyed by Aliyev combined with the genocidal intent of his regime and many Azerbaijanis will almost guarantee the repetition and escalation of this type of violence.

Many genocidal regimes will stage rehearsals for genocide in incremental steps, gauging the international response as they go. The Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention believes that Aliyev is doing just this — setting the stage for genocide by confirming international apathy on the Artsakh issue and slowly inuring international actors to the prospect of an aggressive Azerbaijani invasion of Artsakh, which is 99.7 percent Armenian and part of Armenia's integral cultural heritage. Apart from some courageous votes in the Spanish and French parliaments, as well as statements of support for the Republic of Armenia by American lawmakers, Aliyev has faced no public repercussions for the aggressive wars and the atrocities carried out by his military or for the hateful rhetoric of his regime.

Furthermore, the total isolation of the Armenian population of Artsakh is a clear violation of the tripartite agreement of November 9, 2020, which put an end to the 44-day War. Today's action is one of numerous violations of the agreement that the Azerbaijani regime has committed to date, which also include the aggressive war of September 13 against the Republic of Armenia that killed over 200 Armenians, among them civilians, and resulted in the occupation of part of the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia. In addition, isolating Artsakh Armenians is a breach of international humanitarian law, international human rights law and, possibly, international criminal law. The genocidal intent of Baku has never been clearer and the actions carried out up to the moment highly predict this outcome.

Because the international community continues to choose to ignore the claims of Armenians for survival and self-determination in Artsakh, and because the media in general fails to portray a proper image of the conflict (if they cover the conflict at all), Aliyev is convinced of his invincibility. The combination of these factors,

along with the geopolitics of the region and the European community's engagement in gas-related business with the autocratic regime of Azerbaijan since the start of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, creates the perfect environment for the Baku regime to freely pursue its genocidal goals and territorial ambitions.

The Lemkin Institute has issued several Red Flag Alerts and Statements regarding the threats of genocide to — and the Azerbaijani criminal actions against — Armenians in both Artsakh and Armenia proper. We reiterate that we strongly believe that the international community can prevent genocide in this case by putting coordinated diplomatic pressure on both the Aliyev regime in Azerbaijan and on its ally, the Erdogan regime in Turkey. The Western world must make it clear that it does not support genocide, lest it end up overseeing yet another catastrophe for the Armenian people. Western nations are at grave risk of facilitating genocide in this case and should not believe themselves to be beyond the reach of international criminal law.

Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act.

JUNE 24, 2022

SFRC Chairman Menendez Statement on Biden Administration's Plans to Provide Assistance to Azerbaijan

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, today released the below statement following the Biden administration's decision to waive section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act, which bans most U.S. military assistance to the Government of Azerbaijan until it takes demonstrable steps to cease all blockades and other offensive uses of force against Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh:

"I am deeply disappointed to see the Department of State once again make an exception to bypass Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act to provide what has become annual assistance to the regime in Baku. Adding insult to injury, the administration chose to move forward with this most recent waiver despite the recent publication of a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report which confirmed the Department of

State and Department of Defense have failed to meet statutory reporting requirements to Congress on the impact of U.S. assistance on the military balance between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

“As Azerbaijan continues to further occupy territory from its violent assault on Nagorno-Karabakh, during which more than 6,500 people died and more than 100,000 ethnic Armenians were displaced in 2020, it simply makes no sense to say that U.S. assistance and training has not impacted its military balance with Armenia. I will continue to conduct rigorous oversight of any and all assistance to Azerbaijan and expect the Department of State to operate with complete transparency and provide all necessary details for Congress to assess any assistance provided to Baku.”

Additional information can be had at the following sites:

<https://armenianbar.org/2022/12/19/genocide-warning-nagorno-karabakh/>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666535222001185?via%3Dihub> (Article on Hybrid Warfare, comparing Ukraine with Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia.)

<https://www.newsweek.com/you-cannot-erase-us-opinion-1776282>

<https://news.yahoo.com/christian-group-urges-biden-prevent-151305218.html>

<https://euobserver.com/world/156607>