



March 26, 2022

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
United States Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We urge you to publicly denounce Azerbaijan as it continues to violate the Trilateral Agreement through an escalation of military aggression and gross violations of human rights against the people of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh).

The Center for Truth & Justice (CFTJ) is a U.S. nonprofit organization established to document and preserve testimonials following the 2020 war in Nagorno-Karabagh. Global ARM is a U.S. nonprofit organization established in 2021 to strengthen, protect and promote the U.S.-Armenia relationship in ways that enhance security and economic ties between the U.S. and Armenia.

As you know, Azerbaijani forces recently killed four and severely injured 14 Armenian servicemen in several locations along the lines of contact. They continue terrorizing civilians using advanced weapons and forcibly displacing hundreds of residents flee their homes and livelihoods. This behavior is unacceptable and must stop before more lives are lost and destroyed.

Azerbaijan deliberately destroyed the gas pipeline from Armenia to Artsakh leaving the entire Artsakh region without heating in the middle of heavy snow and freezing temperatures. The Azerbaijani side refuses to allow any repairs or restoration of the pipeline. This is a continuing pattern of human rights violations committed by Azerbaijan to deprive Armenians of fundamental human rights through ongoing harassment, terror and deprivation. All of this is occurring during heavy snow and freezing weather harming the elderly, the infirm and children the most.

The injustice in Ukraine deserves the robust response the United States has provided. Your leadership is also urgently needed at a time when the Azerbaijanis expect the United States will be distracted and ignore the abuses and violations they are committing in Artsakh. It is clear the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh can never live under Azerbaijani rule. The consolidated dictatorship of Azerbaijan has never relented on its public goal of ethnically cleansing Artsakh of all Armenians.

We urge you to immediately call on Azerbaijan to cease all offensive military operations in Artsakh and restore gas supplies. We also urge you to dispatch a high-level representative of the U.S government to the region to lead the effort to stop Azerbaijani aggression. Restoring full Section 907 sanctions would be a first step for the United States to send a clear and consistent message to Baku to stop their aggression as well as allow Armenians to repair the gas pipeline forthwith.


We request a virtual meeting with you to further discuss these disturbing developments.

We listened to President Biden's powerful speech in Warsaw committing the full force of the United States to combat autocracies and tyranny around the world. The United States and Armenia share the fundamental values of protecting human rights and promoting democratic values. The people of Armenia and Artsakh want and need your leadership at this desperate time.

Sincerely,



Gor Mnatsakanyan
President, CFTJ



Timothy Jemal
President, Global ARM

Cc: The Honorable Bob Menendez, Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
The Honorable Gregory Meeks, Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee