



ARMENIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF AMERICA

# PRO-ARTSAKH ADVOCACY

2016



# ANCA PRO-ARTSAKH ADVOCACY

The Armenian National Committee of America works with the Administration, Congress and the foreign policy community in Washington, DC and in state capitals across America to advance a broad array of targeted public policy initiatives in support of the status, security, and development of the independent Republic of Nagorno Karabakh. Among the ANCA's recent and ongoing pro-Arsakh programs are the following:

**DIRECT U.S. ASSISTANCE:** At the urging of the ANCA, the U.S. has provided direct aid to Nagorno Karabakh since FY1998. This appropriation (the only such direct aid provided to Artsakh by any country) was made over the objections of the White House and despite continued strident opposition from Baku. The ANCA presses for the continued appropriation and timely allocation of each dollar intended by Congress. This aid recently helped conclude a clean water project in Stepanakert and is currently targeted, in consultation with the Nagorno Karabakh government, to finalize the demining of farmlands in Artsakh's interior. The ANCA is seeking U.S. funding for the operations and upgrade of a vitally important regional rehabilitation center.

*Since Fiscal Year 1998, the U.S., at the urging of the ANCA, has been the only country to provide direct aid to Nagorno Karabakh.*



Armenian Americans regularly converge on Washington, DC, as part of ANCA fly-in campaigns, to make the case for U.S. aid to Artsakh, challenge Azerbaijan's aggression, support the Nagorno Karabakh Republic's independence, and call for the implementation of pro-peace proposals.

*The ANCA backs the placement of OSCE-monitored gunfire-locator systems to determine the source of attacks along the line of contact.*



**#STOPALIYEV NOW**

**IMPLEMENT THE  
ROYCE-ENGEL  
PROPOSALS  
FOR #NKPEACE**

**ANCA.ORG/NKPEACE**

**ENCOURAGING U.S. CONDEMNATION OF AZERBAIJANI AGGRESSION:**

The ANCA is committed to ending the counter-productive U.S. and OSCE pattern of “false parity” and encouraging a firm response to Azerbaijan’s ongoing threats and acts of aggression. Progress has been registered on this front, primarily in the wake of the Safarov scandal, as international mediators have shown an increased willingness to criticize Azerbaijan’s violations of the cease-fire. Members of Congress have played a key role in highlighting both Baku’s aggression and urging an end to the pattern of weak U.S. responses to Azerbaijani attacks.

**OPPOSING MILITARY AID TO AZERBAIJAN:** The ANCA continues to press the Administration and Congress to eliminate U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan until it ceases acts and threats of violence, and commits to a purely peaceful resolution. Cutting-off this aid would not materially harm Azerbaijan’s multi-billion dollar military but would represent a powerful symbol of U.S. opposition to Baku’s acts and threats of aggression.

**ROYCE-ENGEL PEACE PROPOSALS:** The Chairman and Ranking Democrat of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Ed Royce (R-CA) and Eliot Engel (D-NY), spearheaded an October 2015 bipartisan letter, signed

by 85 Representatives, calling for an end to the failed OSCE policy of artificial evenhandedness in responding to Azerbaijani aggression, and making three concrete pro-peace recommendations:

- An agreement from all sides not to deploy snipers along the line of contact.
- The placement of OSCE-monitored, gunfire-locator systems to determine the source of attacks along the line of contact.
- The deployment of additional OSCE observers along the line of contact.

**STATE LEVEL RECOGNITION:** The ANCA works with a broad range of official U.S. stakeholders to secure American affirmation, at all levels, of the security and independent status of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh. To date, the U.S. states of Maine, Louisiana, Rhode Island, California, and Massachusetts have recognized the independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, and Maryland has cited the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh in an official resolution.

ANCA Western Region Government Affairs Director Tereza Yerimyan joining New Mexico activists in a meeting with NM State Senate President Pro Tem Mary Papen discussing Artsakh independence and state-level efforts to aid Armenian Genocide survivors a century ago.



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*In response to President Aliyev's pardon of convicted axe-murderer Ramil Safarov, the ANCA helped facilitate rapid U.S. condemnation by President Obama, the State Department and key Members of Congress.*

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) discussing Nagorno Karabakh with the ANCA's Ken Hachikian.



**OPPOSING ANTI-ARMENIAN STATE LEVEL INITIATIVES:** The ANCA has recently succeeded in blocking Baku's campaign of state-level anti-Armenian initiatives in Tennessee, South Dakota, Wyoming, Missouri, Mississippi, Colorado, New Hampshire, and Hawaii.

**ENDING THE ISOLATION OF ARTSAKH:** For the first time ever, on December 9, 2015, the U.S. representative to the Minsk Group peace process, Ambassador James Warlick, attended a Congressional program celebrating Nagorno Karabakh's dedication to peace and freedom. Rejecting calls by Baku to boycott such events, Ambassador Warlick took part in the event, speaking with Nagorno Karabakh's Foreign Minister, Members of Congress, and leaders of the Armenian American community.

**SAFAROV SCANDAL:** Through immediate, targeted outreach, the ANCA helped facilitate rapid U.S. condemnation of the Safarov pardon by President Obama, the State Department, and key Members of Congress, including the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

A full listing of U.S. protests is provided here: <http://anca.org/safarov/>

**PUBLIC REBUKE OF WHITE HOUSE KHOJALY PETITION:** As a result of targeted ANCA pressure, the White House declined to condemn or even mention Khojaly in its public response to an on-line White House petition that had secured the requisite 100,000 signatures (many from abroad) to trigger an answer from the Obama Administration. The White House's refusal to engage with Azerbaijan's false historical narrative represented

a public setback for Baku's effort to enlist the White House in its anti-Armenian campaigns.

**BRYZA NOMINATION:** The ANCA helped block Senate confirmation of President Obama's nominee to serve as Ambassador to Azerbaijan, due to his anti-Armenian bias and his inappropriately close ties

to the Azerbaijani government and Caspian oil interests. This defeat (covered widely by the Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, etc.) represented a watershed moment in the push back against undue Azerbaijani influence, sending a powerful message to the foreign policy community.

**CAPITOL HILL PROGRAMS:** The ANCA has, for more than a decade, worked with pro-Armenian partners in facilitating bipartisan events on Capitol Hill celebrating the freedom of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh. A senior Artsakh official speaks at each of these events. Recent programs have featured remarks by Congressman Ed Royce, the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

**SECTION 907:** The ANCA supports and defends Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act as a legally enacted statement of U.S. policy against Azerbaijan's aggression and blockades. Although the enforcement of this measure is currently waived by the Obama Administration, Section 907 prohibits assistance to "the Government of Azerbaijan until the President determines, and so reports to the Congress, that the Government of Azerbaijan is taking demonstrable steps to cease all blockades and other offensive uses of force against Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh." The ANCA seeks the full enforcement of Section 907.

**DJULFA DESECRATION:** The ANCA continues to press for a thorough U.S. inquiry into the State Department's failure to adequately protest and investigate the Azerbaijani government's December 2005 videotaped, systematic desecration and destruction of an ancient Armenian cemetery and thousands of intricately-carved grave stones in Djulfa, Nakhichevan. Due to Senate pressure, two successive U.S. Ambassadors have pledged to visit Djulfa. Both have been publicly blocked by Baku. The ANCA continues to press for the inclusion of this desecration in the State Department's human rights and religious freedom reports.

**STEPANAKERT AIRPORT:** The ANCA affirms the right of the people of Artsakh to free travel and has worked with Members of Congress to protest Azerbaijani threats to shoot down civilian airplanes using the



*The ANCA presses for a thorough U.S. inquiry into the Azerbaijani government's 2005 destruction of thousands of ancient Armenian cross stones in the Djulfa cemetery.*

*The ANCA works to ensure careful scrutiny regarding the prohibition on the U.S. sale or transfer of potentially dual use materials to Azerbaijan.*

soon to be opened Stepanakert airport. The ANCA counters ill-advised efforts, by the U.S. government or the OSCE, to, in any way, discourage the opening of this transport facility.

**ALIYEV EDUCATION:** As part of a broad-based public education campaign, the ANCA seeks to counter the efforts of the Azerbaijani government to enlist the support of U.S. federal and state level officials in their anti-Armenian initiatives. A key element of this effort is educating U.S. officials about the man behind these campaigns—the oil-rich, corrupt dictator of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev. (<http://www.anca.org/whoisaliyev/>)

**ENSURING SCRUTINY OF DUAL-USE SALES TO AZERBAIJAN:** The ANCA works to ensure careful scrutiny regarding the prohibition on the U.S. sale or transfer of potentially dual-use materials to Azerbaijan, including satellites and aerial drones.

Our most recent effort in this regard resulted in a year-long delay in U.S. financing for Azerbaijan's first satellite and the imposition of stringent U.S. restrictions and monitoring requirements.



Armenian Americans with roots in Baku—Vitaly Dadalyan and Juliette Papiyan—share their families' refugee experiences at a Capitol Hill luncheon marking the 25th anniversary of the Baku pogroms in February, 2015.



The ANCA Eastern Region's Armen Sahakyan and California Courier publisher Harut Sassounian join with Baku pogroms survivors Larisa Manuk, Michael Abagyan and Olga Ovanesyan, as they share eye-witness accounts with Rep. Nydia Velasquez (D-NY).

**SUMGAI/BAKU:** In an effort to raise awareness and secure U.S. condemnation of Azerbaijan's pogroms against Armenians in the cities of Sumgait (February 27-29, 1988), Kirovabad (November 21-27, 1988) and Baku (January 13-19, 1990), the ANCA helps facilitate official statements by Members of Congress in February and March of each year. In February of 2015, the ANCA organized the first ever Capitol Hill advocacy days by Armenians with roots in Azerbaijan. These survivors, and their children, marked the 25th anniversary of the Baku pogroms at a Capitol Hill remembrance, offered detailed accounts about the anti-Armenian massacres, advocated for the security and independence of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh, and called for increased U.S. aid to its citizens.

**MADRID PRINCIPLES:** While supporting the OSCE as the ongoing platform for the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh issue, the ANCA continues to voice serious reservations against the dangers of the presently-formulated Madrid Principles, which demand strategic, up-front, and irrevocable concessions by the Armenian side in return for vague paper promises of future action by Azerbaijan.

**ENGAGEMENT WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT:** The ANCA maintains a regular dialogue and open line of communication with White House and State Department officials dealing with the Artsakh issue, ensuring that they understand the Armenian American position in defense of the security and independent status of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh.



ANCA leaders discussing Artsakh related advocacy with Nagorno Karabakh Republic Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan and U.S. Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL).

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ANCA leaders discussing the latest Artsakh related advocacy progress with Nagorno Karabakh Republic Parliament Chairman Ashot Ghouljian.





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**REMOVAL OF BARRIERS TO CONTACTS/COMMUNICATIONS:** The ANCA is working to lower out-dated and counter-productive barriers to broad-based U.S.-Nagorno Karabakh governmental and civil society communication, contacts, travel, and cooperation.

**ARTSAKH PARTICIPATION IN PEACE PROCESS:** The ANCA consistently presses for the reinstatement of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh as a full participant in all talks by the OSCE Minsk Group.

**U.S. AMBASSADORIAL NOMINATIONS:** The Armenian American community's stand in defense of Nagorno Karabakh and against Azerbaijani aggression have both figured prominently in recent Senate confirmation hearings for U.S. ambassadorial nominees to Azerbaijan.

**PRISONERS OF WAR/CAPTURED ARMENIANS:** The ANCA continues to track each Armenian imprisoned by Azerbaijan, regularly inquiring about their situation and encouraging their timely release in discussions with the Administration and the Red Cross.

**CHALLENGING STATE DEPARTMENT'S ACCUSATION OF ARMENIAN OCCUPATION:** Over the past decade the ANCA has worked consistently for the removal of the word "occupy" from the State Department's description of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict in its human rights report and other public statements. The current language, while still not fully accurate, represents an improvement over past text.

**COUNTERING TURKISH INTERFERENCE:** The ANCA regularly counters Turkey's efforts, via the U.S. government and the OSCE, to establish itself as a meaningful player in the Karabakh peace process, despite its clear bias as a political, military, and economic enabler of Azerbaijan.

Helsinki Commission Co-Chair, Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) discussing regional human rights challenges with the ANCA's Ken Hachikian and Legislative Affairs Director Raffi Karakashian.





Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (D-CA), who is of Armenian and Assyrian heritage, discussing Artsakh assistance programs with the ANCA's Raffi Hamparian, ANCA Western Region Government Affairs Director Tereza Yerimyan, ANCA San Francisco Director Arsen Markarov and ANCA Western Region Chairwoman Nora Hovsepian, Esq.



Dr. Carolann Najarian discussing the critical challenges facing Artsakh with Senator Ed Markey (D-MA).

**EXPOSING CORRUPTION:** The ANCA broadens public awareness of reports of corruption connected to Baku's anti-Armenian interference in U.S. politics.

**News Channel 5:** Lawmaker Says \$10K Contribution, Resolution Just 'Coincidence' <http://bit.ly/X1H1by>

**CNBC:** The Aliyev Family of Azerbaijan <http://cnb.cx/1or07NA>

**Washington Post:** For Obama's ex-aides, it's time to profit from experience <http://wapo.st/12S9vAP>

**Politico:** Robert Gibbs, Jim Messina, David Plouffe headline Azerbaijan trip <http://politi.co/1oCLVWc>

**Houston Chronicle:** Lawmakers' trips to Baku conference raise ethics questions <http://bit.ly/V1E4WI>

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**DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY:** The ANCA, in August of 2015, organized a successful nationwide advocacy campaign that led to the public release of an Office of Congressional Ethics 70-page finding on the Azerbaijani government’s potentially illegal funding of Congressional junkets.

**FLY-INS FOR ARTSAKH:** The ANCA regularly organizes grassroots “fly-ins” bringing activists from across America to Washington to lobby their federal legislators on initiatives to save lives, avert war, and create the conditions for a fair and enduring peace for Nagorno Karabakh.

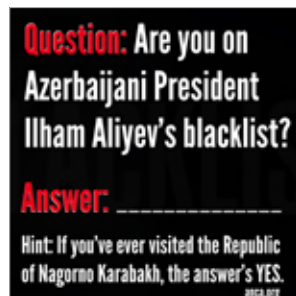


ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian with ANCA Tennessee advocate Dr. Shant Garabedian and Massachusetts advocate Dr. Carolann Najarian as they visit with Congressional offices in support of peace and security for Artsakh.



# ARTSAKH ON THE PAGES OF ANCA SOCIAL MEDIA




A sample of ANCA social media posts regarding Artsakh on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Reddit.





# ARMENIA AND NAGORNO KARABAKH



-  Territory of the Republic of Armenia
-  Territory of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh
-  Territory of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh occupied by Azerbaijan



# WHO IS ILHAM ALIYEV



Ilham Aliyev is the authoritarian President of Azerbaijan. Although he draws only a modest government salary, he is reportedly worth billions of dollars, holds vast assets overseas, actively lobbies foreign governments, and controls, along with his family, most of the economy of Azerbaijan, a country still plagued by poverty.

Ilham's father, Geidar, was a KGB general who sat on the Soviet Politburo in Moscow. Between Geidar and Ilham, an Aliyev has ruled Azerbaijan for roughly 39 of the past 45 years.

Aliyev spends over \$3 billion a year on arms, incites anti-Armenian hatred, attacks peaceful protesters, and regularly threatens to renew his country's war on the neighboring Republic of Nagorno Karabakh.

In August of 2012, in an act condemned by President Obama and leaders worldwide, Aliyev **pardoned, praised, and promoted an unrepentant axe-murderer, Ramil Safarov**, who was convicted in a Hungarian court for murdering an Armenian NATO Partnership for Peace participant in his sleep in Budapest.

In February of 2012, Aliyev - in a sweeping and hateful indictment of an entire ethnic group, chillingly similar to Hitler's attempts to demonize all Jews - **publicly announced that: "our main enemies are Armenians of the world,"** and said that: **"Armenia is a country of no value."**

In February of 2013, Aliyev **stripped an Azerbaijani writer, Akram Aylisli, of his state honors and pension** (his relatives were fired from government jobs), because he wrote sympathetically about Armenians in his recent novel. (A political ally of Aliyev offered a bounty of \$12,000 for Aylisli's ear.)

As recently as July of 2012, officials of Aliyev's government have **threatened to shoot down civilian airplanes flying between Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh.**

In December of 2005, Aliyev's armed forces were **video-taped demolishing thousands of intricately carved stone-crosses** in a 1,300 year-old sacred Christian cemetery in Djulfa, Nakhichevan. The U.S. condemned this desecration, and Baku has **barred two U.S. Ambassadors from visiting this site.**

Transparency International regularly rates Azerbaijan as **one of the world's most corrupt nations.**

The State Department warns that Azerbaijan cannot guarantee the safety of all U.S. citizens.

Ilham Aliyev presides over an intolerant regime that abuses the rights of its own citizens, even as he seeks, without legal or moral basis, to extend his control over the free people of Nagorno Karabakh.



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