

Armenian National Committee of America

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

August 8, 2014

The Honorable James Warlick
U.S. Co-Chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Ambassador Warlick:

We need a strong American stand for peace to help stop Azerbaijan's march toward war.

As you know, President Aliyev's most recent wave of fatal cross-border attacks against Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh has cost dozens of lives and seriously undermined the vital work of the OSCE Minsk Group. All indications are that, unless stopped, this undemocratic and unaccountable dictator will act on his threats to start a full-scale Caucasus war, one that will visit vast death and destruction upon all the peoples of the region, likely leading to a wider and even more dangerous conflict.

The OSCE Minsk Group has proven unwilling to condemn President Aliyev's openly announced military escalation or to challenge his unapologetic march toward war. This failure in the face of outright aggression has contributed meaningfully to a dangerous atmosphere of impunity. Azerbaijan, today, is flagrantly breaking the norms of international conduct, pushing the limits of the world's tolerance, secure in the knowledge that those mediating this conflict will respond to even the most egregious instances of Baku's unilateral belligerence with generic calls upon all parties to refrain from violence. This destructive pattern must be reversed before the cycle of violence spins entirely out of control.

With sufficiently strong American leadership, the Minsk Group can get the peace process back on track, by unequivocally condemning Azerbaijan's military attacks and then by leading an international campaign to secure Baku acceptance of OSCE proposals, already backed by Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh, to pull-back snipers and add observers.

Take a stand for peace by stopping President Aliyev's march toward war.

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Sincerely,

Ken Hachikian

Chairman