



Please deliver  
to: Foreign  
Affairs LA

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Armenian National Committee of America

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Foreign Affairs LA  
From: Kate Nahapetian, Government Affairs Director  
Date: August 18, 2005

**Re: Help End the Blockades of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh**

I am writing to share with you a letter (attached) that ANCA Chairman Ken Hachikian sent this week to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice regarding the illegal Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades, and also to share with you the special importance that our community attaches to Congressional pressure on the Administration to oppose Ankara and Baku's increasingly aggressive efforts to isolate Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh.

As you may know, Turkey and Azerbaijan are currently seeking financing for a Caucasus railroad project that would - for short-sighted and narrowly-defined political reasons - circumvent Armenia. Even worse, these countries are apparently in the process of turning to the U.S. Government (Ex-Im, OPIC, TDA, etc.) to finance this ill-advised and commercially unsustainable project. Please impress upon the Administration that we should not be drawn into subsidizing efforts by Turkey and Azerbaijan to isolate Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh.

In this same spirit, we ask you to please help secure the adoption of H.R.3361, the "South Caucasus Integration and Open Railroads Act of 2005," and H.R.3103, the "End the Turkish Blockade of Armenia Act."

Please contact us for more information on this issue at (202) 775-1918 or [anca@anca.org](mailto:anca@anca.org).

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## Armenian National Committee of America

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

August 16, 2005

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

I am writing, on behalf of the Armenian American community, to express our profound disappointment regarding the continued lack of meaningful diplomacy on the part of our government to pressure Turkey and Azerbaijan to lift their longstanding and illegal blockades of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh.

Our community was once again reminded about the absence of any serious U.S. effort to end these violations of international law by your comments on another matter involving the closing of borders. Speaking in Beirut at a July 22nd news conference with the Lebanese Prime Minister, you demanded that Syria fully open its border with Lebanon, appropriately noting that, “good neighbors don’t close their borders to their neighbors.” In your strongly worded remarks, you drew international attention to the “very serious situation on the Lebanon border where Lebanese trade is being strangled.”

As you know, according to the World Bank’s estimates, the Armenian economy has suffered billions of dollars in losses due to the Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades. Successive Administrations and the Congress are on record condemning Turkey and Azerbaijan’s conduct as hindering our country’s interests, undermining American values, and preventing progress in this strategically important region. Yet, these blockades have remained in place for more than a decade, with little more than pro forma protests and ineffective gestures on the part of our government.

We would respectfully ask that our government’s policy of opposition to blockades and support for open borders be applied universally and without double standards. In this spirit, we call on you to forcefully and publicly condemn the Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh and to use the full leverage of our government to immediately end these violations of international law.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth V. Hachikian  
Chairman

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