

PEACE

REQUEST: Please co-sign the Royce-Sherman Letter (DEADLINE: March 18th)

ISSUE: This bipartisan appeal calls on President Obama to press Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev to accept peace-keeping proposals for Nagorno Karabakh. They are set to meet at the White House Nuclear Summit on March 31st. These proposals, backed by the Administration, OSCE, Armenia, and Nagorno Karabakh (but opposed by Azerbaijan) require:

- 1) The non-deployment of snipers and heavy arms;
- 2) The addition of OSCE observers, and;
- 3) The deployment of gunfire locator systems.

The Royce-Sherman letter follows up on an October 2015 bipartisan Congressional appeal, signed by 85 Representatives.

TALKING POINTS:

-- This letter supports the implementation of the Royce-Engel proposals, our best hope to stop the killing and give peace talks a chance.

-- These concrete proposals simply seek to hold the parties accountable:

- 1) The non-deployment of snipers and heavy arms;
- 2) The addition of OSCE observers, and;
- 3) The deployment of gunfire locator systems.

-- The fact that Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh have endorsed the Royce-Engel proposals speaks to the Armenian side's commitment to peace.

-- Azerbaijan blocked the implementation of these proposal, indicating clearly that they seek to avoid being held accountable for their acts of aggression.

-- The Administration's artificial evenhandedness is a form of false parity that effectively emboldens those committing acts of aggression to escalate their attacks, secure in the knowledge that all that will result are generic calls on all parties to refrain from violence.

-- A similar Congressional letter was co-signed last October by 85 U.S. Representatives. They stressed that: "There will be no peace absent responsibility."

PROSPERITY

REQUEST: Please co-sign the **Dold-Pallone Letter** (DEADLINE: March 18th)

ISSUE: This bipartisan letter, organized by the Congressional Armenian Caucus, supports an array of foreign aid priorities of special concern to Armenian Americans.

TALKING POINTS:

U.S.-Armenia/Artsakh Relations:

- Armenia is a friend and ally of the United States, with ties dating back to the era of the Armenian Genocide. We share democratic values and a common interest in peace. (In fact, Armenia has sent peacekeepers in Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Kosovo, and Mali.)
- Despite Baku's aggression, Armenia and Karabakh remain committed to peace.

Benefits of Aid to Nagorno Karabakh

- We are asking for at least a \$5 million in FY17 foreign aid for Nagorno Karabakh.
- U.S. aid has provided maternal health care, clean drinking water, and mine clearance.
- The most urgent need in Nagorno Karabakh is the Lady Cox Rehabilitation Center, a regional health clinic that annually serves over 1,000 kids and adults with disabilities.

Aid to Help Armenia Transition Syria Refugees:

- At least \$10 million is needed to help Armenia transition those fleeing Syria.
- Armenia has accepted more refugees per capita than nearly any other nation, yet has received only modest U.S. and international assistance for this purpose.
- With international help, Armenia can become a safe haven for at-risk Christians.

Call on Congress to "Zero-Out" U.S. Military Aid to Azerbaijan

- Azerbaijan should not get U.S. military aid as long as it is committing acts of aggression and obstructing implementation of the Royce-Engel peace proposals. In fact, the Section 907 restrictions on aid should be strengthened.

\$40 Million in U.S. Economic Assistance to Armenia

- Targeted economic aid will help Armenia make the aid-to-trade transition.

PROSPERITY (continued)

REQUEST: Call on the Treasury Department to support a Tax Treaty with Armenia

ISSUE: This bilateral agreement would, by eliminating the threat of double taxation, foster the growth of U.S.-Armenia economic relations and, more broadly, help Armenia to complete its aid-to-trade transition in terms of its relationship with the United States.

TALKING POINTS:

- The growth of U.S. Armenia economic relations reinforces strong bilateral ties and reflects the enduring bonds that have long connected the American and Armenian peoples.
- We are encouraged by the aid-to-trade transition in the U.S.-Armenia relationship, as illustrated by the finalization in 2015 of: 1) A U.S.-Armenia Trade and Investment Framework Agreement, and 2) the largest ever U.S. investment in Armenia (the purchase by Contour Global of the Vorotan hydro-electric power plant).
- The lack of a modern U.S.-Armenia Double Tax Treaty hinders the growth of bilateral economic relations by creating uncertainty about the taxation of profits.
- A Treaty would establish a clear, predictable, transparent legal framework for individuals and corporations operating in both jurisdictions.
- The only agreement addressing tax issues is an out-dated and obsolete U.S.-USSR treaty signed during the Nixon-Brezhnev era.

JUSTICE

REQUEST: Cosponsor and Work for House Adoption of H.Res.154

ISSUE: The Armenian Genocide Truth + Justice Resolution seeks a sustainable improvement in Armenian-Turkish ties by urging Turkey to honestly reckon with the consequences of this crime.

TALKING POINTS:

- The path to peace and sustainable progress in Armenian-Turkish relations is a truthful and just resolution international resolution of the Armenian Genocide.
- Now is the time to put U.S. recognition of the Armenian Genocide into practice by pressing Turkey to end its denial of the truth and its obstruction of justice.
- This is practical but still principled road map to improved Armenian-Turkish relations.

REQUEST: Co-sponsor the Azerbaijan Democracy Act, H.R.4264

ISSUE: This human rights legislation imposes U.S. aid, travel, economic, and international lending sanctions on Azerbaijan due to its extensive human rights abuse of its own citizens.

TALKING POINTS:

- We see a dangerous link between Baku's domestic repression and regional aggression.
- We must stop Azerbaijan before he completely crushes civil society in Azerbaijan.
- Let's send a clear signal to both the Azerbaijani government and people about America's commitment to human rights and democratic freedoms.

REQUEST: Please support House passage of H.Con.Res.75:

ISSUE: This religious freedom measure calls on President Obama to condemn as genocide the mass murder in the Middle East of Christians.

TALKING POINTS:

- Christians are clearly among those being targeted in a genocidal campaign, waged by Islamic extremists, to rid the Middle East of religious minorities.
- We support the adoption of this legislation and call on the President to designate Christians as among those being targeted in genocidal attacks.