



Armenian National Committee of America

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ANCA Policy Brief: The Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act

During its military assault on Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) in 2020, and the subsequent blockade and ethnic cleansing of the region in 2023, Azerbaijan perpetrated grave human rights abuses and war crimes against the region's Armenian population – including the arbitrary detention and abuse of prisoners of war and civilian captives, the extrajudicial killing of civilians and unarmed servicemembers, the deliberate targeting of civilians, and other war crimes. Despite this, Azerbaijan has faced no accountability for its flagrant violations of international law.

Azerbaijan continues to arbitrarily detain at least 23 known Armenian prisoners of war, civilian captives, and former Artsakh officials – including past presidents, foreign ministers, and parliamentary leaders. Armenians in Azerbaijan's illegal custody have been subject to abuse and torture in detention, and denied their right to legal due process.

In February 2025, Azerbaijan commenced the sham trials of former Artsakh officials on politically motivated charges – targeting these individuals on the basis of their Armenian identity, and their advocacy for Artsakh's right to self-determination. In March 2025, Azerbaijan ordered the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to leave the country. The ICRC was the only organization authorized to visit Armenian prisoners in Azerbaijan's unjust detention.

In light of Azerbaijan's ongoing human rights violations, the ANCA urges the Trump Administration to impose Global Magnitsky Act sanctions against Azerbaijani officials responsible for grave human rights abuses.

Urge Enforcement of Global Magnitsky Sanctions Against Azerbaijani War Criminals

Efforts to enforce Global Magnitsky sanctions against Azerbaijani officials responsible for war crimes and human rights violations have received significant bi-partisan and bi-cameral support.

In 2023, Senators Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Jack Reed (D-RI) and Rep. Seth Magaziner (D-RI) led a bi-partisan and bi-cameral letter – signed by 96 colleagues – calling for the enforcement of sanctions against Azerbaijan following the genocidal ethnic cleansing of Artsakh. In 2024, Representatives Dina Titus (D-NV) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) introduced the Azerbaijan Sanctions Review Act, a bipartisan bill that would require the Administration to report on the applicability of Global Magnitsky Sanctions against Azerbaijani officials responsible for war crimes.

ANCA Request: The ANCA urges Congressional leaders to support an upcoming bipartisan letter calling on the Trump Administration to enforce Global Magnitsky Act sanctions against Azerbaijani war criminals and demand the immediate release of Armenian prisoners of war, civilian hostages, and former Artsakh leaders.

Submissions to the Departments of State and Treasury

In 2024, the ALCJHR, in partnership with the International Comparative Law Center in Yerevan, filed seven cases with the Departments of Treasury and State requesting an assessment of the applicability of Global Magnitsky Act sanctions against 48 Azerbaijani officials responsible for human rights violations. [Case summaries are available here.](#)

