



Armenian National Committee of America

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Legislative Brief

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To: **Foreign Affairs Staffers**
House of Representatives
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Stop U.S. Military Aid to Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan continues launching new attacks against Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh), killing Armenians on their indigenous homeland and threatening to cut off the only road, pipeline, and energy connections between Artsakh and Armenia.

ANCA request:

- 1) Please issue a statement or social media post condemning Azerbaijan's latest attack against Artsakh.
- 2) Stop sending U.S. military aid to the oil-rich, aggressive Azerbaijani military.

-- Legislatively, this requires enacting statutory prohibitions in the FY23 State-Foreign Operations Bill and FY23 NDAA.

-- In terms of the Executive Branch, this requires that the President suspend his waiver of Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act and enforce this statutory restriction on U.S. aid.

Recent legislative activity:

In response to Azerbaijan's aggression against Armenians in Armenia and Artsakh, the House recently adopted these three provisions in the FY23 NDAA:

Section 1343: Requiring a report to Congress on Azerbaijani war crimes.

Section 1350: Calling for Azerbaijan's release of Armenian POWs.

Section 5874: Requiring a report on violations of restrictions (Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act) on U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan.

Key points:

-- Oil-rich Azerbaijan neither needs nor deserves U.S. military aid.

-- U.S. taxpayers should not subsidize the army of an oil-rich dictator ethnically cleansing indigenous Christians from their ancient homeland.

-- The U.S. has sent over \$164,000,000 in U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan (source: GAO). This aid has materially strengthened and morally emboldened Azerbaijan to ethnically-cleanse Artsakh.

-- In the wake of Azerbaijan's 2020 ethnic cleansing of 100,000+ indigenous Armenians from Artsakh – amid Azerbaijan's ongoing aggression – not a single U.S. tax dollar should be sent to Aliyev's.

-- Two days before Russia invaded Ukraine, Azerbaijan signed a major security agreement cementing its political and military alliance with Russia.

Big picture:

-- Sending U.S. military aid to human rights abusers like Azerbaijan undermines America's commitment to human rights.

-- The danger of green-lighting military aid to Azerbaijan extends beyond the South Caucasus. Abetting one of the world's most authoritarian regimes weakens America's standing as a beacon of human rights.

-- Amid pressing needs at home and abroad, we should not be sending U.S. tax dollars to the oil-rich regime of Azerbaijan's corrupt dictator.

General background:

As a candidate, President Biden (October 2020) responded to Azerbaijan's attack on Artsakh by calling on the U.S. to enforce Section 907 to "stop the flow of military equipment to Azerbaijan." Despite this public stand, President Biden reversed himself, waiving Section 907 on April 23, 2021.

The General Accountability Office has reported that the Executive Branch has violated Section 907 by failing to meet its statutory obligation to address its reporting requirements to Congress – including the prohibition on any U.S. assistance being used by Azerbaijan for offensive purposes against Armenia.

GAO link: <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-22-104619>