



Armenian National Committee of America
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

September 15, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol, Room H-305
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

I am writing to ask you, in the context of your visit to the Caucasus, to immediately stop U.S. tax-payer funding to an Azerbaijani military that is, as I write this letter, killing Armenians, bombing Armenian cities, invading Armenian land, and ethnically-cleansing Armenians from their indigenous Artsakh homeland.

The urgency of our request is underscored by the brutal 44-day war and ethnic-cleansing campaign that Azerbaijan launched in 2020 against Artsakh and, more recently, by the renewed attack into the Republic of Armenia over the past week. In the wake of this aggression, Congress must stop shipping U.S. tax dollars to Azerbaijani President Aliyev's armed forces.

A halt to U.S. aid to Azerbaijan would also meaningfully challenge our State Department's deeply flawed policy of answering every act of Azerbaijani aggression with generic calls upon all parties to refrain from violence. This failed policy of false parity is as destructive as it is dangerous, emboldening the aggressor and abandoning their victims. Even more broadly, cutting off aid to Azerbaijan, in addition to protecting Armenians and promoting peace, would reinforce America's commitment to centering human rights as a core tenet of our foreign policy.

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The more than \$164,000,000 that our U.S. government has provided to Azerbaijan, under successive Presidential waivers of Section 907, have materially strengthened and morally emboldened Azerbaijan's anti-Armenian aggression. We regret that President Biden – despite his campaign calls for the enforcement of Section 907 – has twice waived this common sense law.

As you know, the General Accountability Office, in an assessment released earlier this year, concluded that the Department of State and Pentagon have failed to meet statutory reporting requirements regarding the impact of such aid on the peace process and regional military balance. The Executive Branch has clearly abused the authorities granted by Congress. It is now time to reclaim these rights and respect both the spirit and letter of Section 907, a longstanding law aimed simply at holding Azerbaijan accountable for its aggression.

Our community and coalition partners ask specifically that you secure enactment of stand-alone legislation, provisions in the FY23 State-Foreign Operations bill, the FY23 National Defense Authorization Act, or other legislative measures, repealing the President's authority to waive Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act restrictions on U.S. aid to Azerbaijan, and/or statutorily prohibiting any funds appropriated or otherwise made available by the U.S. Congress to be provided to or for the Government of Azerbaijan for U.S. military or security programs. Such programs include, but are not limited to, Foreign Military Financing, International Military Education and Training, and Section 333 Capacity Building.

On behalf of Americans of Armenian heritage, I thank you for your longstanding record of friendship with our community and express our appreciation for your consideration of our request. We look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,



Raffi Haig Hamparian
Chairman

Cc: U.S. Representative Jackie Speier, U.S. Representative Anna Eshoo,
Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, Armenian National Committee of the San
Francisco Bay Area