



Armenian National Committee of America

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Policy Memo: Armenian American Legislative Priorities

TO: Members of Congress / Congressional Staff
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Following Azerbaijan's blockade and genocide of the indigenous Armenian population of Nagorno Karabakh (Artsakh), Armenian Americans join with our allies in asking you to take immediate action to hold Azerbaijan accountable for its ethnic cleansing of Artsakh's Armenians.

Sign the Pallone-Markey Letter on Azerbaijan Hosting the COP29 UN Climate Summit

Sen. Markey (D-MA) and Rep. Pallone (D-NJ) are leading bicameral Congressional letter to the Department of State addressing Azerbaijan's human rights record ahead of the annual United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP29), which will be hosted in Baku in November. The letter addresses concerns over Azerbaijan hosting the summit in light of its ethnic cleansing of Nagorno-Karabakh, its ongoing aggression against Armenia, and its crackdowns on freedom of assembly, expression and the press. **To sign, contact Hannah Vogel in Sen. Markey's office: hannah_vogel@markey.senate.gov**

Co-Sponsor S.Res.540 to Investigate Azerbaijan's Human Rights Abuses

Senators Ed Markey (D-MA) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) introduced bipartisan resolution S.Res.540 requesting a report on Azerbaijan's human rights abuses pursuant to Section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act. **To co-sponsor, contact Innocent Wozufia in Sen. Markey's office: innocent_wozufia@markey.senate.gov**

Co-Sponsors: Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL), Steve Daines (R-MT), Gary Peters (D-MI), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Peter Welch (D-VT), John Fetterman (D-PA), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Jack Reed (D-RI), Laphonza Butler (D-CA) & Sherrod Brown (D-OH).

This privileged resolution would reassert Congressional oversight over U.S. military assistance by requiring the State Department to provide a report on Azerbaijan's human rights violations – including the ongoing arbitrary detention and torture of Armenian POWs, civilian captives and political prisoners, the destruction of Armenian churches and cultural heritage, the deliberate targeting of civilian populations and infrastructure, ethnic cleansing, and domestic repression and crackdowns on freedom of speech, assembly and press.

Pursuant to Section 502B(c), following the passage of a resolution the administration must deliver a report to Congress within 30 days detailing the human rights abuses of the target country, and an explanation as to whether extraordinary circumstances exist to justify the continuation of assistance. If this report isn't transmitted to Congress within the allotted time, security assistance is automatically suspended.

Azerbaijan has received U.S. military assistance for decades, emboldening and enabling its authoritarian regime's genocidal aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh – culminating in the forced displacement of the region's entire Armenian population of 100,000 people in September 2023, in what experts, including Freedom House, have defined as an act of ethnic cleansing. Despite this, Azerbaijan has faced no accountability for its aggression – as it continues to engage in the threats and use of force to impose demands on Armenia at the barrel of a gun.

Enforcing prohibitions on security assistance to Azerbaijan would mark a long-overdue step towards restoring Congressional oversight and scrutiny over U.S. military aid to Baku's authoritarian regime – and deter further violence and authoritarian aggression against Armenia to ensure a just, durable and dignified peace in the region.