

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 20, 2023

Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Honorable Linda Thomas-Greenfield
U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

CC: Honorable António Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York

The Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues urges the Biden Administration to lead efforts at the United Nations Security Council to establish a mandate and peacekeeping mission that secures and protects the vulnerable Armenian population in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The large-scale attack by Azerbaijani forces this week was the most egregious escalation of their genocidal campaign against Armenians to date. It was designed to subjugate a population that endured months of starvation at the hands of the Azerbaijani regime as President Aliyev repeatedly promised peace and de-escalation to the United States and other international actors. It has become tragically clear that Russian peacekeepers cannot or will not uphold their obligations to safeguard the Armenian people.

Despite failing to prevent this horrific tragedy from occurring, the international community still has time to prevent the massacre or exile of the 120,000 Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh. The United Nations must act swiftly to implement independent monitoring on the ground in Nagorno-Karabakh and provide guaranteed protections to prevent the further bloodshed of innocent civilians and ensure the safety and security of Armenians in the region. The U.N. must also provide emergency humanitarian assistance, in coordination with USAID and other state actors, and work to keep the Lachin Corridor open for the transportation of humanitarian aid.

The United States must act to enforce Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act and prevent any security assistance from going to this murderous regime. The United States should also quickly move to impose sanctions against Azerbaijani officials to send a strong signal that our country will not tolerate political violence.

The Aliyev regime has made clear through its dangerous rhetoric and use of deadly force that they will not accommodate Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh, which has been their historic homeland for thousands of years. Our understanding is there will be a special United Nations Security Council meeting in the afternoon on Thursday, September 21, to discuss Azerbaijan's aggressions. We urge a comprehensive condemnation of Azerbaijani violence and resolute action to protect this vulnerable population.

We firmly believe the United States and the international community have a responsibility to act and prevent a second Armenian Genocide, which we are currently seeing unfold before our eyes. This moment could be the final opportunity to save these people and prevent full-scale ethnic cleansing. Do not waste it.

We appreciate your consideration of these requests and look forward to your timely reply.

Sincerely,



FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress



GUS M. BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress



ADAM B. SCHIFF
Member of Congress



DAVID G. VALADAO
Member of Congress



JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



TOM MCCLINTOCK
Member of Congress



KEVIN MULLIN
Member of Congress



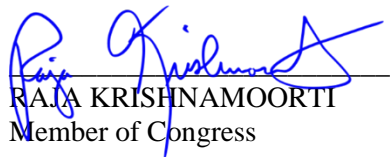
JAMIE RASKIN
Member of Congress



LINDA T. SANCHEZ
Member of Congress




ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress

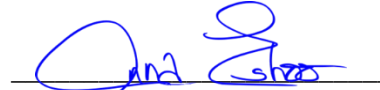



RAJA KRISHNAMOORTI
Member of Congress

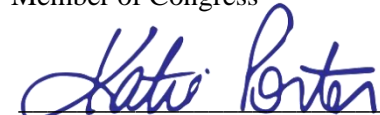


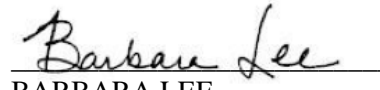
LORI TRAHAN
Member of Congress


GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress



ANNA ESHOO
Member of Congress

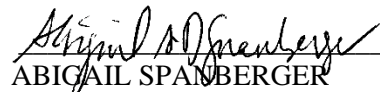

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Member of Congress



KATIE PORTER
Member of Congress


BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



TONY CÁRDENAS
Member of Congress


JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



ABIGAIL SPANBERGER
Member of Congress


JOAQUIN CASTRO
Member of Congress


ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress


JOHN P. SARBANES
Member of Congress

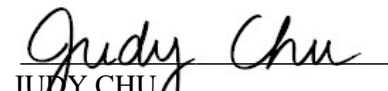

BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress



JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



MIKE QUIGLEY
Member of Congress

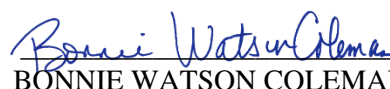

JAKE AUCHINCLOSS
Member of Congress


SETH MAGAZINER
Member of Congress

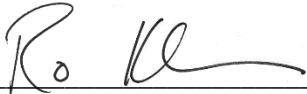

JUDY CHU
Member of Congress


JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress


SUSIE LEE
Member of Congress

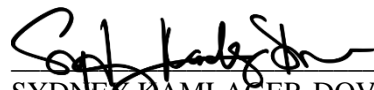

BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member of Congress

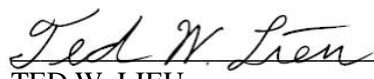

LLOYD DOGGETT
Member of Congress



RO KHANNA
Member of Congress


CHRISSY HOULIHAN
Member of Congress


NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS
Member of Congress


SYDNEY RAMLAGER-DOVE
Member of Congress



TED W. LIEU
Member of Congress



DINA TITUS
Member of Congress

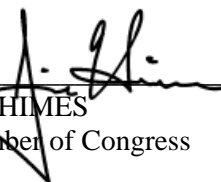

ROBERT J. MENENDEZ
Member of Congress


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Member of Congress


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Member of Congress


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Member of Congress