

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 2, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.,  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

On September 19<sup>th</sup> Azerbaijan launched an unprovoked military offensive on Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) in an attempt to subjugate the region's ethnically Armenian population by force. Following a 24-hour assault that saw the displacement of several thousand civilians and more than 200 deaths, Artsakh's authorities agreed to disarm to avoid further bloodshed.

Azerbaijan's military offensive is the culmination of a cruel nine-month blockade of Artsakh that has deprived the region's 120,000 civilians, including 30,000 children, of food, medicine, and other necessities. In light of the unfolding mass displacement of Artsakh's population, it is clear that our country's response to this crisis has not been commensurate with the scale of the devastation. We believe the United States must make clear to Azerbaijan that its unprovoked aggression against Artsakh is unacceptable and will be met with an appropriate response.

Azerbaijan's assault and subjugation of Artsakh has left the region's Armenian population with no option but to flee, fearing for their future under Azerbaijan's brutal authoritarian rule. As we write to you, over 100,000 individuals, more than 80 percent of the region's population, have fled to Armenia as refugees. We are also disturbed by reports that Azerbaijani authorities are detaining members of Artsakh's political leadership, preventing them from evacuating to safety.

Prior to Azerbaijan's military assault, several leading scholars on atrocities prevention sounded the alarm of genocide, including former United Nations genocide expert, Juan Mendez, and former Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno Ocampo. Despite these credible warnings of impending ethnic cleansing, this preventable humanitarian disaster is unfolding on our watch.

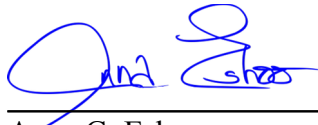
The U.S. has a moral obligation to do whatever is necessary to bring an end to this needless suffering and ensure Azerbaijan faces consequences for engaging in ethnic cleansing. To this end, we respectfully request that your administration take the following actions:

1. Enforce Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act, a provision of current law that prohibits U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan, and impose targeted sanctions on Azerbaijani officials under the Global Magnitsky Act to make clear to Azerbaijan that its aggression will not be tolerated.
2. Provide robust humanitarian assistance to support Artsakh's displaced population and rally the international community to do the same by leading the establishment of an international humanitarian relief operation.

3. Take all actions necessary to ensure the safe evacuation of Artsakh's population to Armenia, including through the immediate deployment of observers to the Lachin Corridor, as well as direct engagement with Azerbaijani authorities to secure amnesty for Artsakh's local leaders.

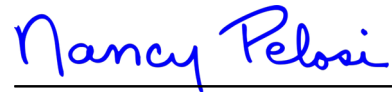
Thank you in advance for your consideration of our requests. We look forward to your administration taking decisive action to alleviate the suffering of the people of Artsakh.

Most gratefully,



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Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



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Nancy Pelosi  
Member of Congress



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Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



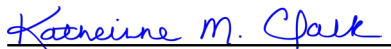
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Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



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David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress




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Katherine M. Clark  
Member of Congress





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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

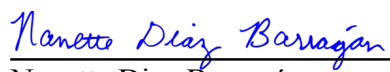
  
Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress


  
Grace Meng  
Member of Congress


  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress


  
Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress

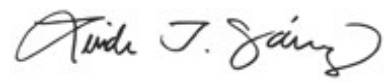
  
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

  
Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress

  
Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress

  
Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress

  
Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress

  
Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



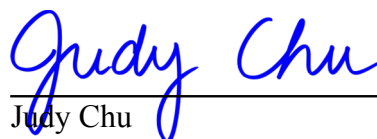
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Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



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Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



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Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



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Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



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Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



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Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



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Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



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Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



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Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



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Morgan McGarvey  
Member of Congress



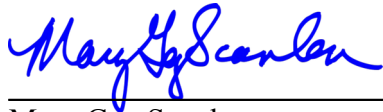
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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



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J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



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Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



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Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



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Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



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Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



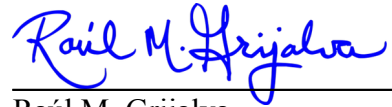
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Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



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Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



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Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



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Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



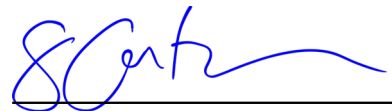
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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



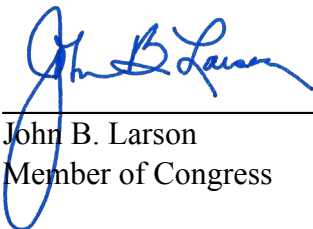
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Susie Lee  
Member of Congress



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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



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Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress



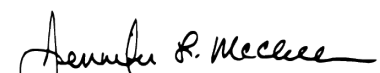
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Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



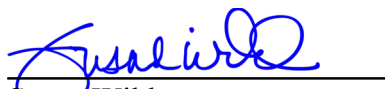
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David J. Trone  
Member of Congress



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Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



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Susan Wild  
Member of Congress



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Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



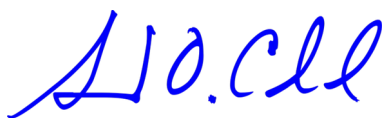
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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



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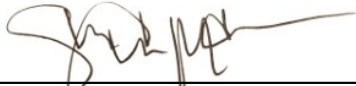
Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



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Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress





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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Antony Blinken, Secretary of State  
The Honorable Samantha Power, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development  
The Honorable Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor