



Armenian National Committee of America
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

October 7, 2021

Hon. Robert Menendez
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
423 DSOB
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Menendez:

I am writing to request that the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations conduct oversight related to the multiple, fundamental, and repeated failures of U.S. bilateral relations with the Republic of Armenia and regional diplomacy prior to, during, and after Azerbaijan's attack last September against the Republic of Artsakh and its ongoing attacks and occupation of Armenia. We make this request consistent with the Congressional oversight responsibilities held by your committee for the Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development.

The demonstrable and disastrous failure of the U.S. Department of State to effectively prevent, mitigate, or otherwise confront Azerbaijan's war crimes – committed with the full backing of NATO ally Turkey – requires serious and sustained Congressional oversight – both to hold the responsible accountable and also to avoid such strategic failures in the future. Among those who should be interviewed in any such inquiry are the senior leadership of the State Department and USAID, past and present, as well as lower-level officials such as then-Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs George Kent, and the current U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, Lynne Tracy.

It is our view that Congressional oversight should include detailed reports addressing the following concerns:

- Failures to adequately prevent violations of Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act and other U.S. laws related to U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan.
- Failures to hold U.S. manufacturers, the Turkish government, and private sector stakeholders responsible for violations of U.S. laws related to the discovery of U.S. parts in Turkish drones deployed by Azerbaijan.

- Failures to confront Turkey or hold its leaders accountable for recruiting foreign terrorist fighters, including jihadists from Syria, to fight with Azerbaijani forces against Artsakh.
- Failures to confront Azerbaijan or to hold its leaders accountable for using cluster bombs, white phosphorous, and other prohibited munitions against Artsakh.
- Failures to confront Azerbaijan or to hold its leaders accountable for illegally holding, abusing, and even causing the deaths of Armenian Prisoners of War.
- Failures to confront Azerbaijan or to hold its leaders accountable for invading and occupying sovereign Armenian territory.
- Failures of the U.S. Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group to adequately represent U.S. interests in a peaceful resolution of Artsakh-related status and security issues.
- Failures regarding U.S. government foreknowledge and/or fore-warning of Azerbaijan's attack.
- Failures to provide anything approaching adequate levels of humanitarian assistance to the over 100,000 Armenians ethnically-cleansed from their indigenous Artsakh homeland.

The ANCA is especially concerned that the Department of State's weak response to Azerbaijan's attacks against both Artsakh and Armenia undermines American leadership in the global arena, including – more specifically – the OSCE Minsk Group platform. Failings of U.S. engagement have only invited malign actors – most notably Turkey – to violently project power into the Caucasus in a way that undermines U.S. interests and runs counter to our American values.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of the ANCA's request that the Committee on Foreign Relations conducts this much-needed and urgently necessary oversight. Please do not hesitate to have your professional staff contact the ANCA National Headquarters at (202) 775-1918 with any questions regarding this correspondence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Raffi Haig Hamparian'.

Raffi Haig Hamparian
Chairman