

Holding Azerbaijan Accountable

Deterring Aggression and Preserving Stability

Request to Members of Congress:

Please zero out all U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan as long as its government continues to threaten renewed aggression against Nagorno Karabagh.

Key Points:

The leadership of Azerbaijan, most notably its President Ilham Aliyev, continues to threaten to restart its war against Nagorno Karabagh.

On February 15, 2008, 52 U.S. Representatives called upon the Secretary of State to challenge Azerbaijan's threats of renewed war, and to take steps to hold leaders in Baku accountable for undermining the long-standing U.S. policy of fostering peace and stability in the South Caucasus region. Since then, Azerbaijan has launched two separate attacks on Nagorno Karabagh.

Azerbaijan should not receive U.S. military aid as long as it threatens to use its large and growing arsenal in offensive actions against Armenians. We should not, in any way, add to Baku's military capabilities until Azerbaijan's leaders cease their threats of violence, renounce aggression, and affirm their commitment to a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno Karabagh issue.

Sending military aid to Azerbaijan – either appropriated or non-appropriated – in the face of these threats only emboldens Baku to continue its belligerence, while, at the same time, undermining the U.S. role as an impartial mediator.

Benefits:

Holding Azerbaijan accountable will encourage its leaders to:

Cease their threats of renewed aggression

Openly renounce war as a means of resolving conflicts

Affirm their commitment to a peaceful resolution of regional issues