

Promoting Development in Nagorno Karabagh:

An investment in peace and democracy

Request to Members of Congress:

Please encourage your colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to allocate \$10 million in FY09 developmental aid for Nagorno Karabagh to support democracy, public health, economic growth, and regional peace.

Key Points:

For more than a decade, the U.S. Congress has played a unique and vital role in providing direct aid to meet pressing humanitarian needs in Nagorno Karabagh, helping its people rebuild their lives after years of Azerbaijani aggression. It is a tribute to these programs that they successfully leveraged local efforts to nearly eliminate Nagorno Karabagh's once-daunting humanitarian challenges.

Retargeting U.S. aid to development programs will help Nagorno Karabagh build upon its strong democratic track record, since 1991, of holding 4 parliamentary and 3 presidential votes, all praised by international monitors as free and fair. Development aid will also promote economic reforms and reinforce Nagorno Karabagh's commitment to a fair and lasting peace.

The Congress should add, as part of the FY09 State-Foreign Operations bill, a development component to the Nagorno Karabagh aid package, with a special focus on the construction of a new National Adult Hospital, personnel training, and the procurement of medical equipment and supplies for this facility.

Benefits:

Providing development aid to Nagorno Karabagh will:

Promote democracy and market reforms

Foster peace and regional stability

Provide a desperately needed medical facility