

October 04, 2022

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER
AND HOLLY MITCHELL**

Support H.Res.1400 (Speier) and S.Res.797 (Menendez)

Last week this Board voted to support H.Res.1351, which condemns Azerbaijan's unprovoked military attack on Armenia, which has resulted in more than 200 people being killed. Over the last two years, Azerbaijan has engaged in a relentless attack on Armenia and the Nagorno-Karabakh region, also known as Artsakh. In September 2020, Azerbaijan, with support from Turkey, launched a military assault on Artsakh. Consequently, in March 2021, this Board passed a motion condemning the Azerbaijani invasion into Artsakh. In March 2022, Azerbaijani armed forces forced the displacement of more than 400 people from Artsakh.

Subsequently, Representatives Jackie Speier (D-CA), Adam Schiff (D-CA), Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), and Anna Eshoo (D-CA) introduced H.Res.1400. This resolution calls on the United States and the international community to petition the International Court of Justice, the European Court of Human Rights, or any other international tribunal for war crimes committed by Azerbaijan. The resolution calls for Azerbaijan to investigate violations of the Geneva Conventions by Azerbaijani servicemembers, and condemns the destruction, vandalization, or desecration of all Armenian cultural and religious heritage sites. Finally, the resolution encourages the Biden Administration to explore sanctions on Azerbaijan for its military aggression and potential war crimes.

Building off the House resolutions, Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) introduced S.Res.797. Similar to H.Res.1400 and H.Res.1351, S.Res.797 condemns the unprovoked military assault on Armenia, calls for an immediate cease-fire, respecting Armenian territorial integrity and the release of all Armenian prisoners of war and civilian prisoners held in Azerbaijan. S.Res.797 also calls for halting all security assistance to Azerbaijan.

Our Board continues to condemn the unprovoked Azerbaijanian attacks on the Armenian people. We support efforts to hold those accountable for war crimes committed and the willful destruction of Armenian cultural and religious sites. The only way to prevent future war crimes is to hold those accountable who commit war crimes today.

MOTION

SOLIS _____

KUEHL _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

MITCHELL _____

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Office - Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch to:

1. Send a five-signature letter in support of H.Res.1400, which calls for the United States and the international community to hold Azerbaijan accountable for war crimes against the Armenian people to Congresswoman Jackie Speier with copies to the Los Angeles County Congressional delegation;
2. Send a five-signature letter in support of S.Res.797 (Menendez), which expresses the Senate's condemnation of Azerbaijani forces illegal and unprovoked assault on Armenian territory and insisting upon the cessation of security assistance to Azerbaijan in accordance with Federal law, to Senator Robert Menendez and Senator Marco Rubio with copies to Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla; and
3. Support H.Res.1400 (Speier) and S.Res.797 (Menendez) and other similar measures that call for the United States and the international community to hold Azerbaijan accountable for war crimes against the Armenian people.

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KB:jmb