

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

March 23, 2021

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 240 CALLING ON AZERBAIJAN TO IMMEDIATELY RELEASE ALL PRISONERS OF WAR AND CAPTURED CIVILIANS

Los Angeles County is home to the greatest number of Armenians outside of Armenia itself. Los Angeles County has been greatly enriched by the vast contributions of Armenian-Americans economically and culturally in business, academia, government, and the arts.

In September 2020, Azerbaijan, with support from Turkey, launched a military assault on the Nagorno-Karabakh region, also known as Artsakh. This unprovoked attack resulted in the deaths of many ethnic Armenian residents as well as the displacement of thousands of Artsakh residents.

The resulting ceasefire agreement signed on November 9, 2020 required all parties to the conflict “exchange prisoners of war, hostages and other detainees as well as the remains of the fatalities shall be carried out”. Unfortunately, reports indicate that as many as 200 Armenian detainees remain in Azerbaijani custody.

A bipartisan group of 31 House members, including California representatives Adam Schiff, Jackie Speier, and David G. Valadao have co-sponsored a resolution calling on Azerbaijan to fulfill their obligations under the November 9th ceasefire agreement to release all detainees and stop misrepresenting the status of Armenian POWs. The resolution also calls for the U.S. State Department to engage with Azerbaijani authorities, including through the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group, to demand the immediate release of POWs and captured civilians.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors send a five-signature letter in support of H.Res.240 to Congressman Adam Schiff with copies to the Los Angeles County Congressional delegation.

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