

MOTION BY SUPERVISORs KATHRYN BARGER  
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**SANCTIONS AGAINST AZERBAIJAN FOR CONTINUED ATTACKS IN NAGORNO-KARABAKH**

In September 2020, Azerbaijan, with support from Turkey, launched a military assault against the Armenian people of the Nagorno-Karabakh region, also known as Artsakh. In March 2022, Azerbaijani armed forces forced the displacement of more than 400 people from Artsakh. Additionally, since December 12, 2022, the Azerbaijani government blockaded the Lachin Corridor, which is the only road connecting Artsakh to the world through the Republic of Armenia. This blockade cut off over 120,000 Armenians, including 30,000 children and 20,000 elderlies, from food, medicine, and other critical supplies.

Following more than nine months of this illegal blockade, the Armenians of Artsakh have now endured a vicious, large-scale assault by the Aliyev regime of Azerbaijan on September 19, resulting in a ceasefire and the capitulation of the local government on September 20. Additionally, an explosion at a fuel station killed at least 125 civilians and wounded nearly 300 as thousands of ethnic Armenians fled Nagorno-Karabakh in fear of violence from Azerbaijani forces. Armenians are now faced with expulsion from their ancient homeland, and this underscores the urgent need for humanitarian aid and access. The attack was intended to subjugate a population that had suffered months of starvation at the hands of the Azerbaijani regime, all the while the Government of Azerbaijan repeatedly feigned peace and de-escalation to the United States and other nations.

Now, more than ever, we must show the Armenian people that we stand in solidarity with them. We firmly urge the Biden Administration and the State Department to take action to support the 120,000 Armenians who Azerbaijan’s continued aggression has uprooted. Sanctions must be imposed on the Aliyev regime. Additionally, the United States must end all military assistance to Azerbaijan and hold them accountable for the war crimes they have committed. We must implore the Administration and State Department to take the initiative at the United Nations Security Council to establish a mandated peacekeeping mission in Nagorno-Karabakh that will ensure the safety and protection of the vulnerable Armenian people living there. As of September 29<sup>th</sup>, over 100,000 Armenians from Artsakh have been forcibly displaced from their homeland, with that number likely to increase. Emergency humanitarian assistance must be provided to Armenia in collaboration with the United Nations, USAID, and other agencies, and the Lachin Corridor must be opened so that humanitarian aid can be transferred.

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The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed several motions condemning Azerbaijan for their aggressions against the Armenian people. In September 2022, the Board passed a motion of support for H.Res.1351, condemning Azerbaijan's unprovoked military attack on Armenia. Additionally, the Board approved a motion in January 2023 calling on the Biden Administration to demand the immediate re-opening of the Lachin Corridor and end all United States economic and military assistance to Azerbaijan. We must now move quickly to unconditionally condemn Azerbaijan's genocidal actions and protect the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch to send a five-signature letter to President Biden, United States Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, and Secretary of Treasury Janet Yellen, urging the Administration to take the following actions:

1. Impose Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act sanctions against Azerbaijan;
2. Provide humanitarian assistance for the Armenian people who are being forcibly exiled from their ancient homeland of Nagorno-Karabakh;
3. Introduce a UN Security Council Resolution to establish a United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Nagorno-Karabakh; and,
4. End all United States military and economic assistance to Azerbaijan.

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