

Pashinyan expects reaction from USA over ceasefire violation by Azerbaijan



Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan expects that the USA will react to the ceasefire violation by Azerbaijan, pointing out the side that has violated the ceasefire with adequate consequences, PM Pashinyan said on October 26 in a Facebook Live.

“Now it’s already clear that this time again it was impossible to respect the ceasefire. All should know that the Armenian side made all efforts for the preservation of the ceasefire. The Defense Army was extremely restrained from morning, but the ceasefire failed to be implemented. We don’t know what will be the reaction of the U.S. President to the failure of the ceasefire, but I had a telephone conversation after the midnight with Secretary of State Pompeo, and told him that this is the 1st ceasefire for them, but for us it’s the 3rd and I can predict what will happen tomorrow. I said that with the utmost probability the ceasefire will not be respected and with the utmost probability Azerbaijan will blame Armenia”, Pashinyan said.

Pashinyan noted that he had asked the Secretary of State how they will clarify who has violated the ceasefire and what will be the consequences for the violation.

“It’s not correct if I say what Mr. Pompeo answered. I hope U.S. officials will answer the question if they have clarified whose actions led to the violation of the ceasefire and if they have clarified, what will be the consequences for the violator”, the PM said.

Nikol Pashinyan added that he still hopes that the efforts of the three OSCE Minsk Group Co-chair countries, Russia, the USA, France, will give results.

“If Russia, the USA and France are unable to establish ceasefire in this conflict zone, it means we are living in entirely another world and we have to understand the logic of tis world. We still hope that the efforts of the three Presidents will give concrete results, but for now we have what we have”, Pashinyan said.

Despite the new ceasefire that was supposed to take effect 08:00 October 26, the Azerbaijani forces launched renewed attacks. The Azeri military also bombarded a village, killing 1 civilian and wounding two others.

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Armenian FM, US House Speaker discuss ongoing hostilities in Nagorno Karabakh

On October 23, in the framework of the working visit to the United States, Foreign Minister of Armenia Zohrab Mnatsakanyan held an online meeting with Nancy Pelosi, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. Lilit Makunts, the Head of the Armenia-US Friendship Group of the National Assembly of Armenia also participated in the meeting.

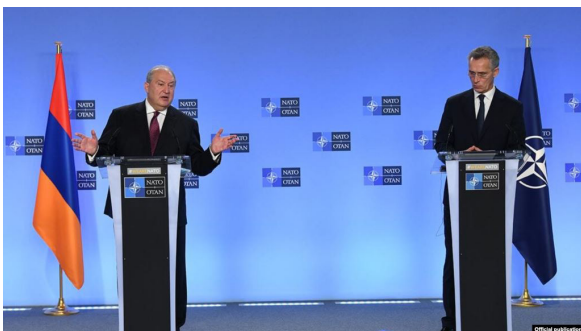
During the conversation, Minister Mnatsakanyan expounded on the large-scale war unleashed by Azerbaijan against Artsakh since September 27, and the following humanitarian situation. Minister Mnatsakanyan stressed that Azerbaijan's pre-planned aggression is accompanied with numerous war crimes, including the indiscriminate targeting of civilian population and infrastructure, religious



and worship sites by using weapons prohibited by international conventions. All this is an existential threat to the security of the peaceful population of Artsakh, which can be counteracted by the international community through full realization of the right of Artsakh people to self-determination, namely the recognition of the independence of Artsakh. According to the Minister, the direct in-

volvement of Turkey in military hostilities by Azerbaijan, which is expressed in Turkey's political and military support to Azerbaijan and the deployment of foreign terrorist fighters in the conflict zone, is a threat to regional security and peace. The sides underlined the need for immediate implementation of the agreements on cessation of hostilities in Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone and the continuation of the peace process within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship. The Foreign Minister of Armenia expressed gratitude to the US House of Representatives for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, especially emphasizing the personal contribution of Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Armenian President Armen Sarkissian accused NATO member Turkey of obstructing international efforts to stop hostilities in and around Nagorno-Karabakh when he met with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in Brussels on October 21.



"I do believe that if a NATO member country like Turkey stops being a part of the conflict it will contribute to the ceasefire ... and we will reach a ceasefire there and hopefully after that we will go back to negotiations at the table of the Minsk Group and finally find a peaceful solution," he added at a joint news conference.

Stoltenberg stressed in this regard that NATO is "not part of this conflict." He ex-

pressed serious concern over the continuing war over Karabakh

"It is important for NATO and international security that hostilities end, the suffering stops and a peaceful solution is found," he said.

Armenia maintains that Turkey has provided weapons and Turkish military personnel to Azerbaijan for the worst hostilities in the conflict zone since the early 1990s. It has also accused Ankara of sending Islamist fighters in Syria to fight in Karabakh on the Azerbaijani side. The Turkish and Azerbaijani governments deny this.

President Emmanuel Macron of France, another key NATO member state, has also accused the Turks of recruiting "Syrian fighters from jihadist groups" for Azerbai-

jan.

"A red line has been crossed, which is unacceptable," Macron said on October 1. "I urge all NATO partners to face up to the behavior of a NATO member."

U.S. Secretary of State also criticized last week Turkey's current role in the Karabakh conflict. "We now have the Turks, who have stepped in and provided resources to Azerbaijan, increasing the risk, increasing the firepower that's taking place in this historic fight," he said.

Meanwhile, Turkey's Vice-President Fuat Oktay was reported to say on Wednesday that Ankara is ready to officially deploy Turkish troops in the Karabakh conflict zone if it receives such a request from Azerbaijan. Baku has said until now that it does not need Turkish military intervention.

Meeting of Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan with the US National Security Advisor

On October 23, within the framework of the working visit to the United States, Foreign Minister of Armenia Zohrab Mnatsakanyan met with the US National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien.

The Foreign Minister of Armenia informed the US National Security Advisor on the situation in Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone resulting from the large-scale war unleashed by Azerbaijan, and massive targeting of civilian population and infrastructure by the Azerbaijani armed forces during the hostilities.

The Foreign Minister expressed strong



concern over Turkey's expansionist policy towards the South Caucasus, aiming to turn the region into a new hotbed of instability and using Azerbaijan as a footing. According to Mnatsakanyan, Turkey's di-

rect military participation in the war unleashed by Azerbaijan, as well as importing foreign terrorist fighters from the Middle East, poses a serious threat to the security of the entire region.

Both sides stressed the need for immediate implementation of the agreements on the cessation of hostilities. The interlocutors agreed that a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is possible within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship: the only format enjoying international mandate.

France demands end to Turkish 'provocations' In Artsakh



FRANCE - French President Emmanuel Macron, wearing a protective face mask, welcomes Armenian President Armen Sarkissian for a meeting at the Elysée Palace in Paris, France, October 22, 2020

France stepped up on October 23 criticism of Turkey's role in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, saying that it is hampering international efforts to stop fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces.

"Our objective is clear: to see the ceasefire applied," French government spokesman Gabriel Attal said after President Emmanuel Macron met with his Armenian counterpart Armen Sarkissian in Paris.

"The President [Macron] is working closely with [Russian President] Vladimir Putin for this," tweeted Attal. "The solution to this conflict can only be found in appeasement. That is why it is imperative that Turkey cease its dangerous provocations in the region."

Shortly after the outbreak of large-scale hostilities in and around Karabakh on September 27 Macron accused Turkey of recruiting jihadist fighters in Syria and sending them to Azerbaijan. "I urge all NATO partners to face up to the behavior of a NATO member," the French leader said on October 1.

The Turkish and Azerbaijani governments rejected the French accusations backed by

Armenia. Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev accused Macron of pro-Armenian bias.

France, Russia and the United States have for decades led international efforts to resolve the Karabakh conflict in their capacity as co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group. The three mediating powers have repeatedly called for an immediate end to the ongoing war.

The situation in the conflict zone was the main focus of Macron's talks with Sarkissian. A statement by the Armenian presidential press office said the two leaders agreed on the need for an unconditional implementation of Armenian-Azerbaijani ceasefire agreements that were brokered by Moscow and Paris earlier this month.

The statement cited Sarkissian as saying that Turkey's military support for Azerbaijan is "further escalating the situation and endangering regional peace and stability."

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said last week that "the only country which isn't calling for respect of the ceasefire is Turkey."

Turkish Vice-President Fuat Oktay told the CNN Turk broadcaster on Wednesday that Ankara will not hesitate to send troops to Azerbaijan if such a request is made by Baku.

Iran sends special units and military equipment to NK and Nakhichevan borders



The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has sent special units and military equipment to its borders with Nagorno

Karabakh and Nakhichevan. ARMENPRESS reports, citing the Iranian Azariha Telegram Channel, a representative of the IRGC told reporters, noting that Tehran makes this move to secure its north-eastern borders from foreign involvement and protection of the territorial integrity of the country.

“Iran will not tolerate any geopolitical change of the borders of the region”, the Iranian military official said.

Earlier, Iranian sources published footages showing the deployment of military units of the IRGC near Khoda Afarin and Julfa regions.

On October 26 IRGC Commander Hossein Salami visited Khoda Afarin region.

France recalls Turkey envoy



France on October 24 said it was recalling its envoy to Turkey for consultations after “unacceptable” comments by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan questioning the mental health of French counterpart Emmanuel Macron, *AFP* reports.

France and its NATO ally are at loggerheads over a range of issues including maritime rights in the eastern Mediterranean, Libya, Syria and most recently the escalating conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh.

But Ankara has now been particularly incensed by a campaign championed by Macron to protect France’s secular values

against radical Islam, a debate given new impetus by the murder this month of a teacher who showed his class a cartoon of the prophet Mohammed.

“President Erdogan’s comments are unacceptable. Excess and rudeness are not a method. We demand that Erdogan change the course of his policy because it is dangerous in every respect,” a French presidential official told *AFP*.

In a highly unusual move, the official added that the French ambassador to Turkey was being recalled for consultations and would meet Macron to discuss the situation.

The Elysee official, who asked not to be named, also said that France had noted “the absence of messages of condolence and support” from the Turkish president after the beheading of teacher Samuel Paty outside Paris.

Erdogan earlier slammed Macron over his policies toward France’s large Muslim minority, saying that he needed “mental checks.”

“What’s the problem of the individual called Macron with Islam and with the Muslims?” Erdogan asked.

“Macron needs mental treatment,” Erdogan added, while indicating he did not expect Macron to win a new mandate in 2022 elections.

The Elysee official said that Erdogan had two months to reply to the demands for a change in stance and that it ends its “dangerous adventures” in the eastern Mediterranean and “irresponsible conduct” over Karabakh where Ankara is strongly backing Baku.

“Measures need to be taken by the end of the year,” said the official.

Co-Chairs to meet Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan in Geneva on October 29



The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (Igor Popov of the Russian Federation, Stephane Visconti of France, and Andrew Schofer of the United States of America) released the following statement on October 25:

The Co-Chairs met in Washington D.C. on October 24 with Armenian Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan and Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov, and also participated in a joint meeting with the Foreign Ministers and U.S. Deputy Foreign Minister Stephen Biegun. The Personal Representative of the OSCE's Chairman in Office, Andrzej Kasprzyk, also participated

in the meetings.

The Co-Chairs urged the sides to take immediate steps to implement all aspects of the October 10 Moscow Joint Statement in accordance with their commitments, noting that they had reaffirmed these commitments with Paris on October 18. The Co-Chairs also reminded the sides of the October 1, 2020 joint statement of United States President Donald J. Trump, French President Emmanuel Macron, and Russian President Vladimir Putin, as well as the October 5 joint statement of Secretary of State of the United States of America Michael R. Pompeo, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France Jean-Yves Le Drian, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov, calling on the sides to cease hostilities immediately and to resume substantive negotiations to resolve

the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

During their intensive discussions, the Co-Chairs and Foreign Ministers discussed implementing an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, possible parameters for monitoring the ceasefire, and initiating discussion of core substantive elements of a comprehensive solution, in accordance with the October 10 Joint Statement. The Co-Chairs and Foreign Ministers agreed to meet again in Geneva on October 29 to discuss, reach agreement on, and begin implementation, in accordance with a timeline to be agreed upon, of all steps necessary to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in accordance with the basic principles accepted by the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Trump promises to easily solve Nagorno Karabakh conflict

US President Donald Trump has declared "excellent progress" in the Nagorno-Karabakh talks.

"We are talking about this; we are talking with Armenia. We have very good relations with Armenia. Very nice people live there. They are so dedicated, very purposeful, incredible people. We'll see what happens," Trump told reporters.

When asked whether he spoke with Armenia or Azerbaijan leaders, Trump said: "I don't want to talk."

"We'll see what happens. I think there is excellent progress in this regard," Trump



added.

"We have a lot of people living in this country from Armenia. They're great people and we're going to help them," President Trump stated.

Later, on October 25 US President Donald Trump spoke about Armenia during the New Hampshire rally.

"Look at Armenia, they are incredible people, they're fighting like hell. Yesterday in Ohio we had a tremendous group of Armenians with the flags and the spirit. And the problems that they have, the deaths, the fighting and everything else, we'll get that sorted out. I call that an easy one. If you know what you are doing, it's easy," Trump said.

Turkey deploys 1,200 of its mountain commando forces to fight against Artsakh – WarGonzo

Turkey has deployed 1,200 special forces to the Artsakh front, WarGonzo's Semen Pegov says, quoting sources in Istanbul.

"Ankara transferred 1,200 of its mountain commando forces from Turkish Kurdistan to Baku, and then to the front. They operate in the highlands of Artsakh," Pegov said on Twitter.

"Specialists from Turkey had to replace

the Azerbaijani special forces unable to withstand a direct clash with militias forces of Artsakh in the mountains. This is primarily about the southern front and the Jebrail-Hadrut direction," Pegov said.



Canadian firm suspends delivery of aircraft engines used on Turkish military drones



Bombardier Recreational Products (BRP) says it has suspended the delivery of aircraft engines to “countries with unclear usage” in the wake of reports that some of those engines are being used on Turkish combat drones deployed by Azerbaijan in fighting against Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh, *CBC* reports.

The Quebec-based company — better known for its Ski-Doo and Lynx snowmobiles — said it became aware late last week that some of the recreational aircraft engines produced by its Austrian subsidiary, Rotax, are being used on Turkish Bayraktar TB2 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

“We have recently been made aware that some Rotax engines are currently used in military UAVs, and have started a thorough investigation immediately,” Martin Langelier, BPR’s senior vice president and the company’s spokesperson, told Radio Canada International in an email statement.

“In the meantime, we are suspending delivery of aircraft engines in countries with unclear usage.”

Langelier said that all Rotax aircraft engines are designed and produced in Austria exclusively for civilian purposes and are certified for civilian use only.

Canada suspended most exports of defense technology to Turkey in October of 2019 following the Turkish invasion of northwestern Syria.

Michel Cimpaye, a spokesperson for Global Affairs Canada, said exports of items on the country’s

Export Control List require a permit only when exported from Canada.

The Bayraktar TB2 drones also feature optical sensors and target designation systems produced by L3 Harris WESCAM in Burlington, Ont.

On October 19, defense officials in Armenia displayed parts of a Bayraktar TB2 drone and its Canadian-made optical and target acquisition systems, as well as its Rotax engine.

No way for subjugation, people of Nagorno Karabakh will decide their fate – Armenian FM tells the CNN



Our compatriots in Nagorno Karabakh will live in freedom, dignity and security, Armenian Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan said in an interview with CNN’s Christiane Amanpour.

“The right of the people of Nagorno Karabakh to self-determination without limitations will be achieved,” the Foreign Minister stated.

“Today’s situation shows that there is no way for subjugation, there is no way for domination, there is no way that we will have the risk of ethnic cleansing looming over our compatriots again,” the Foreign Minister added.

“The people will decide their fate, they will decide for their independence, and that has to be respected. That’s the way to solve the conflict. So far as compromise is concerned, we must be very clear – no concession, no maximalist approach that we have been hearing from Azerbaijan. They have to stop that,” Zohrab Mnatsakanyan stated.

Mercury Public Affairs terminates \$1 million contract with Turkey

Mercury Public Affairs has terminated its registration as a foreign agent of the Republic of Turkey in response to calls by the Armenian community demanding an end to the company's association with the Turkish regime amidst its support for Azerbaijan's genocidal war against Artsakh.



“As a result of our community's persistent activism and the steadfast support of our friends in elected office, I was just informed by Fabian Núñez, who is a partner at Mercury's Los Angeles office, that Mercury Public Affairs would be terminating its registration as a foreign agent of Turkey,” remarked Chair of the Armenian National Committee of America – Western Region (ANCA-WR) Board of Directors, Nora Hovsepien, Esq.

“We welcome Mercury's decision to stand on the right side of history in ending its association with the Government of Turkey and its genocidal policies, and we hope that this decision will serve as an example for every entity which works for or with the authoritarian regimes of Turkey and Azerbaijan.”

The decision comes after considerable pressure from local and state elected officials, and Armenian-American community organizations, mounted on Mercury for its unethical association with the Turkish regime. In the last week, a series of letters has been directed to Mercury demanding the termination of its contract with the Turkish government, including from all fifteen Los Angeles City Councilmembers, Los Angeles County Supervisors Kathryn

Barger and Hilda Solis, California State Senator Anthony Portantino, Glendale City Councilmember Ardy Kassakhian, and sixteen members of the California State Legislature.

In addition to this, the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) initiated the termination clause of its contract with Mercury in a demonstration of solidarity with the Armenian community.

Mercury Public Affairs, a public strategy firm, represents numerous high profile clients across business, politics, and civil society including Microsoft, American Airlines, Starbucks, Comcast, Charter Cable, SoCalGas, and Grubhub amongst others.

For years, Mercury rendered strategic, political and public affairs services to the Republic of Turkey and was complicit in whitewashing the myriad human rights abuses perpetrated by the genocidal Erdogan regime. In February 2020, Mercury signed a contract with Turkey's Embassy in Washington D.C. to the tune of one million dollars.

Mercury has a long history of working with not only the Turkish government but its many proxies. Mercury has rendered services to the American-Turkish Council Turkish-American Business Council (TAIK) – headed by close ally of Turkish

President Erdogan, Mehmet Yalcindag. Last year, Foreign Agent Registration Act filings show Mercury contacted over 150 Congressional offices on behalf of TAIK to set up meetings for Turkish Economy Minister Berat Albayrak – who also happens to be President Erdogan's son-in-law.

Mercury's decision to terminate its registration as a foreign agent of Turkey also follows decisions by the Livingston Group and DLA Piper to end their representation of Azerbaijan amidst growing public outcry over Turkey and Azerbaijan's genocidal aggression against the Armenians of Artsakh.

The Turkish and Azerbaijani governments have for years sought to enforce a gag-rule over United States human rights policy through their insidious attempts to deny the Armenian genocide, and undermine the fundamental rights of the Armenians of Artsakh. Both states rate amongst the worst in the world in terms of democratic standards, media freedoms, and basic civil and political rights.

“Both Turkey and Azerbaijan have spent millions throughout the years on hiring public affairs firms to clean up their public image – tainted by a deplorable track record on human rights, and a severe disregard for democratic freedoms,” said Hovsepien. “The actions taken by DLA Piper, the Livingston Group and now Mercury Public Affairs are an important step in bringing the Turkish-Azerbaijani influence machine to a grinding halt, and preventing their exertion of malign foreign influence here in the United States.”

Self-defense of Nagorno Karabakh people is priority – Pashinyan meets with French parliamentarians

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received a French parliamentary delegation in visit to Armenia. The Prime Minister thanked them for visiting Armenia at this difficult time and for standing by the Armenian people.

“Indeed, we feel your presence and support not only when you are physically by our side, but also throughout your activities. I would like to express my sincere appreciation of French President Emmanuel Macron’s efforts. He was the first international leader to speak about this situation in the language of truth, clearly stating that Syrian mercenaries are involved in the war against Karabakh, and that Turkey is the main instigator behind the war,” Nikol Pashinyan said, noting that he keeps in close touch with the President of France.

Coming to the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Prime Minister said it remains tense on the frontlines. “In fact, under various pretexts Azerbaijan has declined the international efforts aimed at achieving a ceasefire. By and large, the state of affairs is as follows. Any compromise acceptable to Armenia turns out to be unacceptable for Azerbaijan. This is not something novel: we could witness that approach all the way through the peace talks. I can cite the example of 2011 to make it clear that this is not a surprise for us. In 2011, when the well-known Kazan process was going on, the Republic of Armenia accepted the proposed compromise. There was a mutually agreed text of settlement, but Azerbaijan suddenly toughened its position and refused to sign it at the very last moment” Nikol Pashinyan said.

According to the Prime Minister, the international community is looking forth to a compromise-based negotiated settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, which the Armenian side understands. “Compromise implies that both sides should show some flexibility with regard to their initial benchmarks, but the point is

that when Armenia makes its share of concession, the next moment the situation becomes unacceptable for Azerbaijan, which sets forth higher claims. This is what eventually led to renewed hostilities. We can actually witness the same situation in this war, starting with the Moscow statement. Another agreement was reached,



brokered by President Macron, which yet again was undermined by Azerbaijan,” Pashinyan said, noting that here, too, Turkey played a decisive role, because every time a ceasefire is being discussed, the Turkish Foreign Minister or the President state that Azerbaijan should not stop fire.

“This is an important nuance, since we can see that not more than 1/3 of military operations are actually controlled by the President of Azerbaijan, considering that Turkish servicemen, Turkey-backed terrorists and mercenaries are involved in the ongoing hostilities,” Nikol Pashinyan emphasized. The Prime Minister added that Armenia’s views on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remain the same.

“We think that there is no military solution to the issue. We must find a compromise. Armenia is ready for compromise just as it was before, but the main impediment is that any situation that is acceptable to Armenia in the logic of compromise becomes unacceptable for Azerbaijan which, strong with Turkey’s support, demands more and



more. It is unclear how far they will go with such one-sided claims and where the limit of their appetite is. Therefore, following this logic, our primary task is to ensure the self-defense of Nagorno-Karabakh and its people, so that we could come to a truly diplomatic solution of the conflict,” Nikol Pashinyan concluded.

The Prime Minister answered a number of questions of interest to the French MPs, during which he referred to the discussions held with the OSCE Minsk Group



Co-Chairs, Turkey’s destructive policy, its regional aspirations, Israel’s indirect involvement in the Karabakh-Azerbaijani conflict, and the Armenian people’s expectations from the international community.

The Premier stressed that the determination of the status of Artsakh and the exercise of the right to self-determination remain a matter of primary concern for the Armenian people.

The members of the French parliamentary delegation thanked Prime Minister Pashinyan for detailed discussion and went on to inform him that they were set to leave for Nagorno-Karabakh to get a first-hand view of the situation on the spot.

Armenian President: Turkey risks setting the whole Caucasus ablaze

Leaders of civilized nations, regardless of their religious or ethnic identities, must act unequivocally to stop aggressors and establish long-lasting peace. We need peace, and it can only be reached through negotiation and talks, Armenian president Armen Sarkissian wrote in an article published by The National.

The full text of the article is provided below:

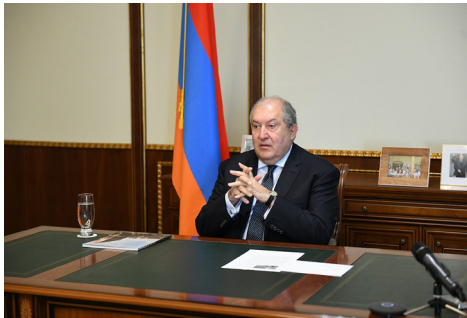
On September 30, I drafted a special letter to several world leaders to describe to them the situation in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, a contested region of the Caucasus inhabited predominately by ethnic Armenians. It has been attacked aggressively by Azerbaijan, with the full support of Turkey. I could hardly anticipate the scope of the aggression and the lack of humanity in the behavior of their forces. Then and even now, the reality on the ground that my fellow Armenians are experiencing is more than alarming, and risks igniting further escalation and insecurity in the region and even beyond.

Months and even years before the military aggression by Azerbaijan on September 27, the Azerbaijani leadership was using very harsh, militaristic rhetoric and overtly voicing, at the highest levels of government, its intentions to resolve the conflict through a fully-fledged war. Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia have been facing similar attempts for more than 25 years since a ceasefire was established after the first Karabakh war in 1994. Ever since then, the rhetoric and the destructive behavior of Azerbaijan has never faded.

Nagorno-Karabakh – or Artsakh, as we call it in Armenia – has always been populated overwhelmingly by Armenians. It has never been a voluntary part of independent Azerbaijan. In 1921, Nagorno-Karabakh was given as a gift by Russia under Josef Stalin to Soviet Azerbaijan, which was not an independent state, but a part of the Soviet Union.

Following decades of continued discrimination, in 1987 and 1988 the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh began to raise their voices to re-join with Armenia. They conducted peaceful demonstrations and signed petitions. At the same time, ethnically motivated persecutions against Armenians in Soviet Azerbaijan mounted. There were pogroms and ethnic cleansing campaigns in a number of Azerbaijani cities.

During the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh declared their independence earlier than Azerbaijan. In fact, Azerbaijan declared its own independence from the Soviet Union in a separate process, without Nagorno-Karabakh. Despite this and other facts that, in Armenia's view, make Azerbaijan's claims



baseless in the context of the international law, the government in Baku seeks has, for about 30 years, sought to oppress with military means the right of the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh (or the Republic of Artsakh) to live in their homeland. It pursues a policy of forcibly capturing lands, cleansing them of their native inhabitants and heritage and ignoring the basic, fundamental rights.

After 30 years of rejecting any attempts at a peaceful solution, Azerbaijan, supported militarily and politically by Turkey, is once again attacking Armenia's cherished homeland. Azerbaijan's position is, in a sense, a continuation of the policies that Armenians have faced ever since the Ottoman Empire tried to perpetrate the genocide of Armenians almost 105 years ago. At that time, about 1.5 million ethnic Armenians perished, or were exiled and persecuted.

The Azerbaijani side today includes not only Turkish generals, officers and military experts, but also Turkish F-16 fighter jets and the infamous "Bayraktar" drones. Every day, these death machines and are involved in bombing Nagorno-Karabakh and even Armenia. Lethal and even prohibited weapons, such as cluster munition, have been deployed for more than three weeks against a huge number of Armenian civilians and civil infrastructure. The latter includes hospitals, houses and even kindergartens.

If you add to this the involvement of Syrian mercenaries, jihadists and radical fanatics who are now on Armenian soil killing my people, the full picture is clear. Mercenaries from international terrorist organisations fighting in the Middle East — in particular, Jabhat Al Nusra, Firqat Hamza and the Sultan Murad Division — are actively entering the fray. Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh are dealing with international terrorism.

Hence, we in Armenia remain very concerned and alert for those developments on the ground. We are also concerned by the hesitant stance of the international community, which needs to react immediately. It needs to apply pressure to Turkey to withdraw from our region with its weapons, mercenaries and cynicism. It needs to

apply pressure to Azerbaijan to respect two ceasefires agreed on October 10 and 17. The war by Turkey and Azerbaijan against my nation risks creating another Syria in the Caucasus, with the potential to fuel a greater fire in the entire region and beyond.

Turkey does not hesitate to export Islamist militants and other terrorists into Azerbaijan. But, as usual, it needs an excuse for doing so. One of its excuses has been that Azerbaijanis are its ethnic kin. The reality is that that line of thinking simply doesn't work in the new world, because by that logic Turkey's ethnic kinship extends all the way into Central Asia, Mongolia, northern China and elsewhere. Is Ankara ready to interfere with any problem that its ethnic brothers may face there?

Perhaps the answer is yes – in which case, it is no wonder that modern Turkey has problematic relations virtually 360 degrees in every direction. It has had problems with Egypt. It is now involved in Libya. It speaks about the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, but in the meantime has crossed over its border with Iraq. It violates the territorial integrity of Syria. It is trying to be very present in Lebanon and in parts of the Gulf. It also has big issues in the Eastern Mediterranean. And now, it is in the Caucasus. All of this is unacceptable.

Leaders of civilised nations, regardless of their religious or ethnic identities, must act unequivocally to stop aggressors and establish long-lasting peace. We need peace, and it can only be reached through negotiation and talks. But this is what the Azerbaijani side rejects each and every time, for reasons that are horrific to the rest of us. They claim they have a legitimate right to use force – brutal, military force – against the Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh.

We need to understand that there is no military solution to this and, I would say, to any conflict. Armenians have always believed that a solution has to be reached through peaceful negotiations and in a way that does not make things worse. This is why we have refrained from officially recognizing the Republic of Artsakh, so as to allow the negotiations to take place and reach a peaceful solution. But Turkey and Azerbaijan seem to have a different understanding of what a solution is, and they push only a militaristic, aggressive and, in my view, genocidal agenda.

My appeal to Muslim and Arab leaders aims at asking them to use their influence and high prestige in the international arena to immediately stop the bloodshed and human suffering.

Together, we can stop this aggression, because we are proponents of peace, who reject war, violence and terrorism.

Rep. Adam Schiff formally calls for U.S. recognition of the Republic of Artsakh



Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

House of Representatives

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLIC OF ARTSAKH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF
OF CALIFORNIA

Friday, October 23, 2020

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise because for more than four weeks, Azerbaijan and Turkey have been waging war on Artsakh, bombarding civilians, churches, and committing possible war crimes. More than 800 soldiers have been killed repelling Azerbaijan's attacks, and dozens of civilians are dead. Estimates are that more than half of the civilian population of Artsakh has been displaced, sleeping in cars or open fields away from falling bombs, as winter approaches.

For decades, through the OSCE Minsk Group, the United States has supported a peaceful, democratic, and negotiated resolution to the dispute surrounding Nagorno Karabakh, or Artsakh. We have persisted in this policy even as Azerbaijan launched countless assaults and as their leadership frequently threatened war to redraw the line of contact by force, and as they rejected monitoring along the line of contact.

Today, it appears that Azerbaijan and Turkey are determined to make good on their threats. With bombs, and drones, and Syrian mercenaries, Turkey and Azerbaijan are pushing ahead with a war that has no end in sight. The Armenian people are the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the genocide perpetrated a century ago by the Ottoman Empire, and the words and deeds of Erdogan and Aliyev today call to mind the crimes of one hundred years ago.

We cannot allow history to repeat itself. If Azerbaijan and Turkey have determined to wage war, the United States, the Minsk Group, and the International Community should make clear that they will not succeed in their aims.

And that if they persist in this violence, we must recognize the Republic of Artsakh as an independent nation. Doing so would send the strongest possible message that we will not allow border disputes to be settled by the indiscriminate and devastating use of force against civilian populations.

Aliyev and Erdogan must be made to understand that if they continue with this war, there will be consequences. The United States will not stand idly by.

Rep. Adam Schiff has formally called for U.S. recognition of the Republic of Artsakh.

"The United States will not stand idly by as Azerbaijan and Turkey wage war on Artsakh, killing hundreds of soldiers and civilians, and displacing tens of thousands," Rep. Schiff said.

For more than a month, Azerbaijan and Turkey have been waging war on Artsakh, bombarding civilians, churches, and committing possible war crimes, he noted.

"More than 800 soldiers have been killed repelling Azerbaijan's attacks, and dozens of civilians

are dead. Estimates are that more than half of the civilian population of Artsakh has been displaced, sleeping in cars or open fields away from falling bombs, as winter approaches," the Congressman said.

"We cannot allow history to repeat itself. If Azerbaijan and Turkey have determined to wage war, the United States, the Minsk Group, and the International Community should make clear that they will not succeed in their aims," Rep. Schiff said.

"Aliyev and Erdogan must be made to understand that if they continue with this war, there will be consequences. The United States will not stand idly by. I stand with Armenia. I stand with Artsakh," he added.

The US must strongly condemn Azerbaijan's hostility and violence against Armenians – Rep. Katherine Clark

The United States must strongly condemn Azerbaijan's hostility and violence against Armenians in Artsakh and demand unequivocally that Turkey remove itself from the conflict, Congresswoman Katherine Clark said in a statement.

"In the past month alone, Azerbaijan has launched yet another series of unprovoked attacks against Artsakh that has led to the displacement of roughly half of its civilian population, solicited military assistance from Turkey in the form of combat drones and foreign mercenaries, deliberately bombed the historic Ghazanchetsots Cathedral in Artsakh's city of Shushi, and violated two internationally brokered ceasefire agreements within minutes of them taking effect. These actions undermine any pathway to peace and will lead only to more destabilization and death," she said.

"Any peaceful way forward must begin



with an immediate ceasefire along the Line of Contact between Artsakh and Azerbaijan as well as a return to negotiations with the members of the Minsk Group. Absent these terms, and in light of recent developments, the United States should prepare to reevaluate its position and be ready to recognize

the Republic of Artsakh as an independent nation. Ceding Artsakh to Azerbaijan under current circumstances is unthinkable. Any government that wantonly bombs a population's schools, hospitals, churches, and civilians has no right to rule over them," the Congresswoman stated.

U.S. Embassy warns of potential terrorist attacks in Turkey, suspends visa services



The U.S. Mission in Turkey has warned its citizens of potential terrorist attacks and kidnappings.

“The U.S. Mission in Turkey has received credible reports of potential terrorist attacks and kidnappings against U.S. citizens and foreign nationals in Istanbul, including against the U.S. Consulate General, as well as potentially other locations in Turkey,” the U.S. Embassy said in a security alert.

U.S. citizens are advised to exercise heightened caution in locations where Americans or foreigners may gather, including large office buildings or shopping

malls.

“All American Citizen and visa services at U.S. Mission in Turkey’s facilities (including U.S. Embassy-Ankara, U.S. Consulate General-Istanbul, U.S. Consulate-Adana, and the U.S. Consular Agency-Izmir) will be temporarily suspended. Individuals with scheduled appointments will be notified by email with instructions on how to reschedule their appointments,” the Embassy said.

Criminal case against Azerbaijan submitted to German Federal Public Prosecutor General

The German-Armenian Bar Association has appealed to the German Federal Public Prosecutor General to file a criminal case against Azerbaijan for committing war crimes against Artsakh, Diaspora High Commissioner’s Office informs.

The statement included claims about Azerbaijan’s attack of peaceful civilians, the physical torture and intimidation of Armenian prisoners of war,



the use of internationally banned cluster

munitions, and the shelling of civilian infrastructure including homes, buildings, hospitals, kindergartens, schools, cultural centers, and churches, as well as the bombing of communication roads and bridges.

The German International Criminal Code allows for the prosecution of serious Crimes against International Law, such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Frank Pallone: The US must take critical steps to pressure Azerbaijan

The US must take critical steps to pressure Azerbaijan to abide by the ceasefire and stop using foreign terrorist fighters, Congressman Frank Pallone said in a Twitter post.

“Had a conversation with Armenian Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan who gave me a detailed assessment of the conflict in Artsakh,” Rep. Pallone said.

“The US must take critical steps like implementing sanctions to pressure Azerbaijan to abide by the ceasefire and stop using foreign terrorist fighters,” he added.



GENOCIDE EMERGENCY: AZERBAIJAN IN ARTSAKH



Genocide Watch, the coordinating organization of The Alliance Against Genocide (AAG), has described the targeting of civilians in Artsakh by Azerbaijan a “genocide emergency.”

Genocide Watch has three levels of Genocide Alerts:

A **Genocide Watch** is declared when early warning signs indicate the danger of mass killing or genocide.

A **Genocide Warning** is called when politicide or genocide is imminent, often indicated by genocidal massacres.

A **Genocide Emergency** is declared when genocide is actually underway.

Due to its denial of past genocide against Armenians, its official use of hate speech,

and the current targeting of civilians in Artsakh, Genocide Watch considers Azerbaijan to be at Stage 9 (Extermination) and Stage 10 (Denial).

This “*10 stages of Genocide*” describe mass ethnic killing as a process consisting of predictable stages. At each stage, preventive measures can stop it. The classification on the stages of genocide was first created by US professor, Gregory Stanton, when he worked at the US State Department in 1996 during the time of the genocide in Rwanda.

“In September 2020, Azerbaijani troops crossed the “Line of Contact” dividing Karabakh. Turkey intervened on the side of Azerbaijan. Armenia supports Artsakh. Azerbaijan uses laser-guided drones sup-



plied by Turkey and Israel to target Armenian troops, villages, and civilians. Azerbaijani military offensives against civilians are war crimes under the Geneva Conventions,” the organization notes.

Genocide Watch recommends:

1) The U.N. Security Council should demand that Azerbaijan stop all offensive maneuvers against the Republic of Artsakh and order a Chapter 7 “ceasefire” in the current conflict.

2) The Security Council should request the “good offices” of the U.N. Secretary-General and the Minsk Group to resolve the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

3) The Security Council should impose an embargo on the sale of arms to Azerbaijan.

4) A U.N. Peacekeeping Force should be created and positioned along the Line of Contact to deter attacks by Azerbaijan against Armenians in Artsakh.

5) World leaders should condemn hate speech and genocide denial by the Aliyev regime.

President Sarkissian thanks Austrian counterpart for ‘clear and unquestionable’ support on Karabakh



President Armen Sarkissian felicitated his Austrian counterpart Alexander Van der Bellen on the occasion of the Austrian National Day, celebrated on October 26.

In a telegram to Alexander Van der Bellen, the Armenian President “expressed certainty that the stable Armenian-Austrian partnership in bilateral and multi-lateral levels will continue being strengthened and expanded for the benefit of the two nations.”

“At this difficult moment for Armenia and Artsakh, when our nation is fighting for life

and freedom, Austria once again expressed its clear and unquestionable support to Armenia, Artsakh and the Armenian people. I am expressing my gratitude to you and Chancellor Sebastian Kurz for the efforts aimed at a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and readiness to provide an arena for talks. We also highly appreciate the Austrian parliament’s resolution condemning the Turkish military intervention to the Karabakh conflict and its arms supplies to Azerbaijan,” Sarkissian said in the telegram published by his office.

On October 15, the Austrian Parliament unanimously adopted a proposal/motion condemning the Turkish military intervention in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and arms supply to Azerbaijan and proposing peace talks in Vienna.

Azerbaijani armed forces target another international reporter in Artsakh



Artsakh. ARMENPRESS reports Russian reporter Daria Aslamova released a footage in her Telegram Channel, showing a shell dropping 200 meters away from them when Aslamova was interviewing an Armenian serviceman.

“I am alive, this is another birthday for me. The shell exploded 200 meters away from us. The moment of the explosion can be seen in the footage. After driving away nearly 500 meters we under-

stood that the explosion had damaged the oil container and the window”, she wrote.

Azerbaijani armed forces regularly target international reporters. The first incident took place in Martuni city of Artsakh on October 1, injuring two French reporters of Le-Monde. The second incident took place on October 8, when Azerbaijan bombed Ghazanchetsots Cathedral in Shushi town of Artsakh from a high precision weapon. Afterwards, when reporters arrived to cover the incident, they again targeted the church from high precision weapon, injuring 3 Russian reporters.

The Azerbaijani armed forces again targeted an international reporter working in

driving away nearly 500 meters we under-

Civilian committee for recognition of Artsakh to be established in Poland



thor of “The Cry of the Armenian Mother, Genocide in Sumgait, 1988” book, said in an open letter to Artsakh’s President Arayik Harutyunyan.

He said the Committee will comprise “Citizens of the Republic Poland who love Peace.” It will also be a symbol of the unity of all in this tragedy of war.

The purpose of the citizens’ committee is:

1. Defense of the rights and dignity of the Armenian people.
2. Actions aimed at ending the conflict in Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh).
3. Information activities on the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh).
4. Actions to recognize Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) as an Independent State.
5. Helping refugees and the wounded in the conflict in Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh).

The Committee will be established in the coming days.

A civilian committee for recognizing the independence of Artsakh will be established in Poland, Tomasz Lech Buczek, au-

Armenians rally in Paris, demand recognition of Artsakh

Armenians have once again mobilized in Paris to protest the large-scale aggression against Artsakh and call for recognition of the Artsakh Republic by France.



Armenians in Paris pay homage to heroes fallen in Artsakh

More than hundred young French Armenians, all dressed in black, paid homage to the Armenian heroes killed repelling Azer-

baijani aggression, freelance journalist Jean Eckian reports.

Each of the participants held a plaque

with the name and age of the fallen heroes.

Deputy Mayor of Alfortville Saro

Mardiryan was among the attendees.



I pray for you: Mel Gibson offers support to Armenians

American actor and filmmaker Mel Gibson has offered support to the Armenian people amid the Azerbaijani aggression against Artsakh.

“I’m very saddened to hear of the recent conflicts in Artsakh and Armenia, I have many Armenian friends here in the US, and they have all told about your plight, your loss of life,” the actor said in a video message shared by RTVI.

“I have always had a great deal of respect for the Armenian people. people of great resilience and great heart,” he added.

“I pray for you in this time of trouble. And I also pray that a peaceful solution can be

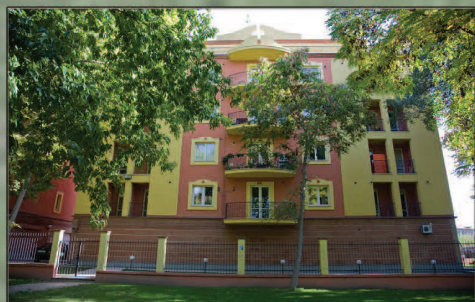


reached, and that the great powers of this world will step in to recognize your situa-

tion, and help you achieve that peace,” Mel Gibson said

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