

## Action alert!

### It is EVERYONE'S Duty to Support the Indigenous Christian Population of Nagorno Karabakh from Ethnocide and Genocide!!!!

#### Every LIFE MATTERS

The new genocide of the indigenous Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh is happening NOW. It is taking place before the eyes of the international community, that did little to prevent and stop the blatant violations of human rights during the 44 days war <sup>1</sup>, nor throughout the 9-months when 120,000 citizens of Nagorno Karabakh, were isolated in a ghetto and starved as food, critical medicine, and other life essentials were blocked by Azerbaijan government.

On September 19, 2023, Azerbaijan launched a full-scale assault against the indigenous starving population of Nagorno-Karabakh under the pretext of an “anti-terrorist operation”<sup>2</sup> – the historic Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast within Azerbaijan which thirty-two years ago, in line with the dissolution of Soviet Union declared its independence through legally conducted referendum to build its democratic institutions and policy. Freedom House rates Nagorno-Karabakh as “partly free”.

#### The “anti-terrorist operation” to date has resulted in:

- Nearly 200 persons who are officially reported dead—including 10 civilians, among whom are **5 children**.<sup>3</sup>
- Over 400 persons have been officially reported wounded, including over 40, civilians among them are **13 children**.
- A school in Yeghtsahogh Village was bombed.
- Azerbaijani forces shot at Russian Peacekeepers “Ural” vehicles transporting women and children evacuees [Source: Center For Truth and Justice received from residents of Mets Shen village]. Five peacekeepers have been killed.
- Azerbaijani armed forces have shelled and advanced into nearly every civilian-populated village and town in Nagorno-Karabakh, including the capital of Stepanakert, as well as Martuni, Askeran, Martakert, and Taghard.

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<sup>1</sup> September 2020- November 2020

<sup>2</sup> The authoritarian regimes to justify their war , give a different names as Russia called the war in Ukraine “military operation”

<sup>3</sup> The figures are corrected constantly

- The 4<sup>th</sup>-century Amaras Monastery—**home of the first Armenian school where the Armenian Alphabet was first taught**, where the grandson of the founder of the Armenian Apostolic Church is buried— is now occupied by the Azerbaijani forces. Previous such occupations have resulted in total erasure of the Christian Armenian cultural heritage sites.
- Unverified information has been received of Azeri forces raping women, beheading civilians, and executing children and men.

This “anti-terrorist operation” is the next stage of a well-orchestrated policy of silent genocide process: starting with the pseudo-youth “eco-activist” protests, which proved to be organized by the Azerbaijan government which was followed by total “border control” on the territory controlled by the Russian Peacekeepers and taking control of the Lachin Corridor Road connecting the region to Armenia and the outside world. The blockade resulted in a starvation campaign—similar to Hitler’s starvation campaign of the Jews—of the 120,000 indigenous Christian Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh. Under International law these actions constitute genocidal intent.

“The blockade of the Lachin Corridor by the Azerbaijani security forces impeding access to any food, medical supplies, and other essentials should be considered a Genocide under Article II, (c) of the Genocide Convention: ‘Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction’” according to world renown legal expert Luis Moreno Ocampo.

It is important to stress that the current “anti-terrorist operation” unleashed by the Azerbaijan government has been marked by carpet bombings of civilian populations, acts of violence against the population, and destruction of cultural heritage sites and landmarks—commencing one day after the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was allowed to deliver 23 tons of aid after months of delivery attempts being blocked by Azerbaijani forces.

Just as the starving Armenians finally received some reprieve from hunger, the Azerbaijan government started the bombardment.

Although a Russian-mediated ceasefire was agreed upon on September 20, 2023, as in the 2020, 44-day war in Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan violated the ceasefire almost immediately and demanded that the Nagorno-Karabakh defense army be disarmed and the people of Nagorno-Karabakh to surrender.

With Azerbaijan intermittently cutting off internet connection, since most atrocities occur at night, the region has been blocked to any media outlet or humanitarian NGOs, civil society groups, or UN special rapporteurs. This presents a disastrous risk of a large humanitarian crisis.

Due to the ongoing blockade and Azerbaijani military checkpoints installed along the Lachin Corridor, Armenian civilians in Nagorno-Karabakh have been impeded from evacuation to Armenia. This isolation further threatens the genocidal intent of Azerbaijan.

**The Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh are prisoners of a well-orchestrated ethnocide in their ancestral homeland where no Armenian is safe.**

“Democracy Today” has for many years worked with the youth in Nagorno Karabakh. We are deeply concerned about the lives of people and the future of Nagorno Karabakh.

Democracy Today appeals for immediate and meaningful policies and actions to preserve the safety and security of the population as well as the ancient cultural heritage sites from erasure.

In designing your actions, it should be strongly considered:

- The Armenian population of Nagorno Karabakh is an indigenous population with a history dating back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century.
- During the last 30 years, they survived 4 wars, but have never surrendered their homeland, and continued to build and prosper and preserve their ancient sites.
- Nagorno Karabakh is a proud emerging democracy that built its Governance and institutions according to democratic principles.
- The war crimes committed by the policy of hatred against the population of Nagorno Karabakh by Azerbaijani authorities leave no hope that Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh will be able to live in dignity and security as part of Azerbaijan. The calls and proposals from Azerbaijan are only calls for surrender and annihilation.

It is high time to put international law into action as laws adopted by the state parties to the United Nations.

**In a long term perspective the following needs to be done:**

The principles international humanitarian law should be applied:

1. The UN Declaration on the rights of Indigenous people to freely pursue their rights as Article 3 states: “Indigenous people have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely peruse their economic, social, and cultural status.”

2 The principle of application of remedial succession towards the population of Nagorno Karabakh which is applicable as the ultimate remedy to protect the people of Nagorno Karabakh.

3. All decisions of International Criminal court and European Court of human rights should be strongly enforced , as well as Azerbaijani government should be punished for the crimes against humanity committed during 44 days war <sup>4</sup>

As of September 24 The Lachin corridor has been unblocked to the humanitarian cargos and people and 1500 people have passed thought it to Armenia to receive assistance at the specially build centers by Armenian Government .

Here are immediate actions:

- Urgently remove the illegal passport control established by Azerbaijan to restore the free movement of people from and to Nagorno Karabakh as well as free entry of media representatives, international NGOs, and humanitarian relief groups.
- Send an international fact-finding mission to collect, and document on the ground facts with eye-witness reports
- Establish offices of international humanitarian organizations.
- Rescue lost family members and ensure family reunifications.
- Assess psychological, physical, and property destructions and organize immediate assistance.

For your information, please find attached documents containing information on the current situation based on verified, reliable sources on the ground.

As well as contact us at “Democracy Today” .....

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<sup>4</sup> This publication on crimes committed documented is attached to this letter