

The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500



October 2, 2020

Mr. President,

Thank you for issuing a joint appeal, together with Presidents Putin and Macron, for an end to Turkey and Azerbaijan's new military offensive against the Armenian Christian population of Nagorno Karabakh. Your leadership is needed to bring this crisis to an end. Civilian deaths, injuries and displacements are on the rise, and the fighting risks setting off a new regional war.

American, Russian and French sources have confirmed that the military coalition now at war against this small Armenian Christian country is made up of the Azerbaijani and Turkish armed forces, allied with Islamist jihad fighters from Syria. This assault is a renewed attempt to destroy one of the world's oldest Christian communities.

Armenian Christians, as many Americans know, were victims of Genocide in Turkey just over one hundred years ago. As president, you have acknowledged this genocide by the name the Armenians give to it: "Medz Yeghern," the Great Crime. Armenian Christians were also the victims of a religious cleansing campaign in Nagorno Karabakh in the early 1990s, and were targeted again by Turkish-backed jihadists only a few years ago in the Syrian city of Aleppo.

This genocide of Armenians in installments must now come to an end. The survival of the Armenian Christian community of Nagorno Karabakh is at stake. Moreover, Nagorno Karabakh sits on geopolitical fault lines that can send dangerous tremors throughout the region should this war be allowed to continue.

The United States has considerable leverage with the state and non-state components of the anti-Armenian military coalition. Turkey is a member of the American-led NATO alliance. Azerbaijan is integrated into NATO institutions. The United States and its NATO allies continue to sustain anti-government jihad fighters in Syria.

A united front, made up of the three Presidents of the Minsk Group's co-chair countries, is undoubtedly the right multilateral approach to address this potentially catastrophic geopolitical, economic and humanitarian crisis.

CSI urges you, Mr. President, to use this leverage to bring peace, stability and security for all the inhabitants of this turbulent region, regardless of ethnicity or religion.

A first constructive step in this direction would be for the United States, Russia and France to suspend all lethal and non-lethal military aid to all three elements of the anti-Armenian military coalition.

A second such step would be to provide, together with Russia and France, security guarantees for the existentially threatened people of the region.

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Finally, USAID should be instructed as a matter of urgency to produce a plan of economic support and development for Nagorno Karabakh. This project ought to be modelled on the program implemented by your administration in the parts of Iraq's Nineveh Province which are heavily populated by Christian and other minority communities victimized by the Islamic State.

Thank you for acting on behalf of the Christians of Nagorno Karabakh. We offer our prayers for your health and that of the First Lady.

Most Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Eibner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Dr. John Eibner
International President
Christian Solidarity International