

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20500



September 21, 2023

Mr. President,

As I write, Azerbaijan's ethnic-religious cleansing operation in Nagorno Karabakh has entered a new phase. Azerbaijan's ultranationalist dictator, Ilham Aliyev, has unleashed a military offensive against the region's 120,000 Armenian Christian residents.

Thousands of trapped civilians are desperately descending upon the airport in Stepanakert hoping and praying that an airlift will be organized to evacuate them to safety.

This cannot have come as a surprise to you. Last December, CSI issued a Genocide Warning for this region, and presented to you. It was prompted by Azerbaijan's blockade of the Lachin corridor and by President Aliyev's anti-Armenian rhetoric and his public posturing as the political heir of the perpetrators of the great Armenian Genocide and its aftershocks in the South Caucasus.

In August, the first Chief Prosecutor of the International Court followed suit with his own Genocide Warning, highlighting the probability of genocide if Azerbaijan's acts of aggression were left unrestrained. "Starvation," he observed in this case, "is the invisible weapon of genocide."

Explicit notice of what is now transpiring came from Azerbaijan as well. On September 7, Elchin Amirbayov, the representative of Aliyev, threatened in a Deutsche Welle interview that "a genocide may happen" if Nagorno Karabakh's democratically-elected leaders do not submit to Azerbaijan's demands and surrender their right to self-determination.

Preparations for Azerbaijan's military offensive have been picked up for weeks by American intelligence agencies and leaked to the press, giving ample advance warning of what was to come. Yet, your administration has addressed this renewal of the Armenian Genocide with empty statements, but no solid deeds.

Later today, the UN Security Council will meet again to address Azerbaijan's violence against Nagorno Karabakh's Armenian Christians. The two previous sessions were characterized by empty words, including the contributions of the United States.

There is no time to lose. The United States must exercise its leadership fulfill obligations under international law to prevent genocide and protect those threatened by it.

CSI urges United States to propose today to the UN Security Council a four-point resolution calling for: 1) An immediate humanitarian airlift to evacuate vulnerable civilians and deliver emergency humanitarian aid. 2) The establishment of a cease-fire. 3) The withdrawal of Azerbaijani troops from the territory of the former autonomous republic of Nagorno Karabakh. 4) Reaffirmation of Nagorno Karabakh's right to self-determination as called for in the U.S.-endorsed OSCE Madrid Principles.

Should the UN Security Council fail to act, we expect you to mobilize a humanitarian

airlift together with willing allies and partners.

Independently of the UN Security Council, the United States must demonstrate resolve by sanctioning the architects and principal implementers of this new phase anti-Armenian ethnic and religious cleansing, in particular Ilham Aliyev and the President of the Azerbaijani State Oil Company Rovshan Najat.

You were the first U.S. President to officially acknowledge the Armenian Genocide, thereby earning the gratitude of the Armenian people and all who abhor genocide. Let it not be said that on your watch, Azerbaijan – a strategic partner of the United States – successfully executed another phase of the historic Armenian Genocide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Silber". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

International President
CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL (CSI)