

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 26, 2023

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Janet Yellen  
Secretary of the Treasury  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20220

## **Re: Nagorno-Karabakh**

Dear Secretaries Blinken and Yellen,

We urge the Departments of State and Treasury to immediately exercise discretionary authority to impose sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (Global Magnitsky Act, Title XII, Subtitle F of P.L. 114-328; 22 U.S.C. §10101 et seq.) on individuals in the government of Azerbaijan associated with the military attacks against and brutal blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh. These actions represent a gross violation of human rights and the perpetration of violent conflict, which both pose a direct assault on American values and interests. The perpetrators of these human rights violations must be held to account by the United States.

Since December 12, 2022, Azerbaijan has blocked the Lachin Corridor, the only route connecting Armenia with Nagorno-Karabakh, depriving some 120,000 Armenians of freedom of movement and access to food, medication, hygiene products, and other commercial goods. The blockade's effects are particularly acute for at-risk groups, such as children, elderly people, people with disabilities and chronic health conditions, whose access to healthcare services is severely limited or disrupted. Local journalists have reported a rise in miscarriages and premature births due to pregnant women not having access to proper nutrition and prenatal care. Azerbaijan has also undermined the region's gas and electricity supply, impacting the functioning of medical and educational institutions and cutting heat as yet another winter approaches.

After over nine months of trying to starve out the ethnic Armenian population in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Azerbaijani military launched a full-scale assault on the region on September 19, resulting in a ceasefire and the capitulation of the local government on September 20. This attack has exacerbated concerns about the worsening of the humanitarian crisis, and statements from the government of Azerbaijan about "re-integration" raise the specter of ethnic cleansing and cultural genocide. Additionally, an explosion at a fuel station killed at least 125 civilians and

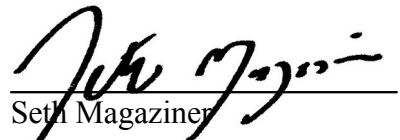
wounded nearly 300 as thousands of ethnic Armenians fled Nagorno-Karabakh in fear of violence from Azerbaijani forces. This horrific incident tragically underscores the urgent need for humanitarian aid and access.

America is a world leader on international human rights and must continue to serve as a mediating force and supporter of peace in the region. In order to hold Azerbaijan accountable for its actions in blockading and assaulting Nagorno-Karabakh, we respectfully request that your departments exercise existing authorities under the Global Magnitsky Act to impose targeted sanctions on the individuals in the Aliyev government that are responsible for or participated in the violation of human rights in Nagorno-Karabakh.

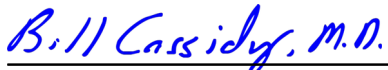
Sincerely,



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



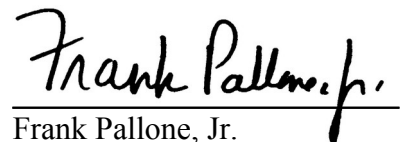
Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
United States Senator



Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator



Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



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Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



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Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



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Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



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David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress



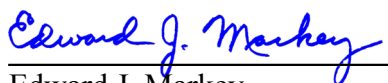
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John Fetterman  
United States Senator



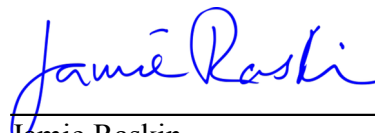
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Charles J. "Chuck"  
Fleischmann  
Member of Congress



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Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



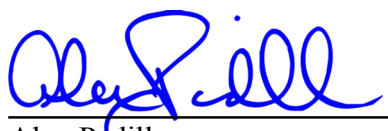
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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



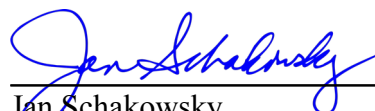
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Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress



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Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



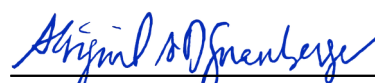
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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



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Abigail Davis Spanberger  
Member of Congress



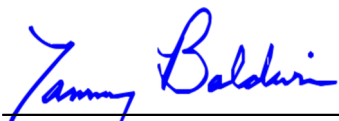
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Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



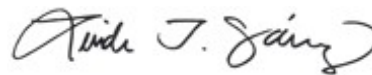
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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



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Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



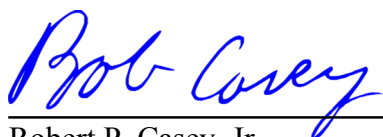
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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



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Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



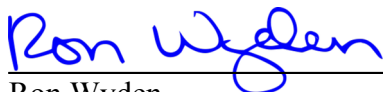
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Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



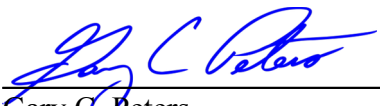
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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



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Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



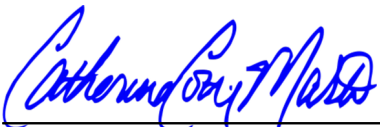
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Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



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Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



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Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



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Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



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Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



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Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



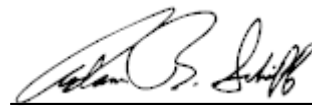
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Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



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Peter Welch  
United States Senator



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Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



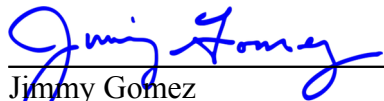
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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



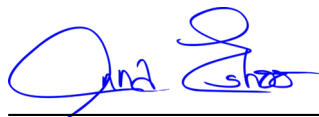
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Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



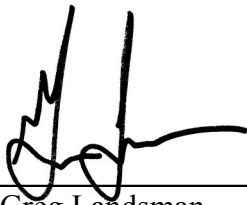
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Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



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Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Robert J. Menendez  
Member of Congress




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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



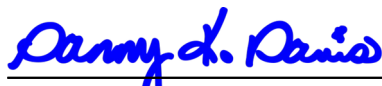
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Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



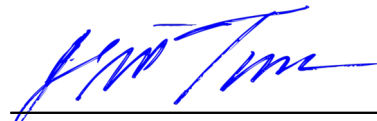
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Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



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David J. Trone  
Member of Congress



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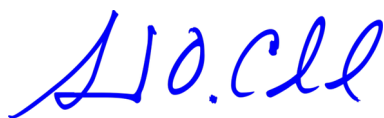
Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress





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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



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Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



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Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



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Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



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John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



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Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



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Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



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Susie Lee  
Member of Congress



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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress



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Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



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Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



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Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



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Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



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C. A. Dutch Ruppberger  
Member of Congress



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Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



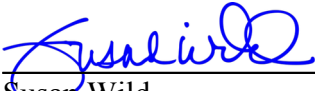
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Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



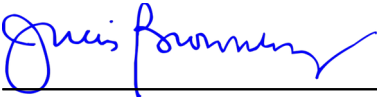
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Susan Wild  
Member of Congress



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Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



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Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



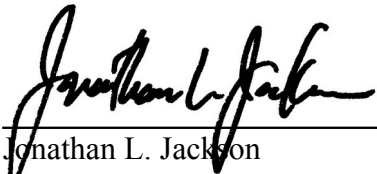
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Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



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Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



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Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



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Cori Bush  
Member of Congress