

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 19, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Nagorno-Karabakh

Dear President Biden,

We respectfully ask that you request supplemental appropriations for the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Armenia resulting from the brutal blockade of and attack on Nagorno-Karabakh by the Aliyev regime in Azerbaijan.

News reports indicate that your administration will submit to Congress a supplemental request that could exceed \$100 billion and include resources for Ukraine to continue the fight against Vladimir Putin, funding to support Israel in the wake of the devastating Hamas terrorist attack, and assistance to bolster Taiwan's defenses. However, given the rapidly unfolding humanitarian situation on the ground in Armenia and the pressing need for resources to help Armenia process and integrate the influx of more than 100,000 refugees who have fled their homes in Nagorno-Karabakh, we request that your administration support additional assistance for Armenia.

According to the World Health Organization, of the more than 100,000 refugees who have fled to Armenia, 42,000 require immediate health assistance especially given the recent explosion at a fuel depot, in which more than 200 died and many more were injured.¹ Moreover, 30,000 of these refugees are children or represent vulnerable populations, including the disabled, pregnant women, and those with chronic health conditions.² Because many Armenian refugees fled their homes without adequate resources and personal affects, they are in dire need of assistance, including food, basic staples, cash, housing, mental health counseling, employment aid, and winterization.³

Due to the pressing humanitarian crisis on the ground in Armenia, the UN has issued an emergency appeal to the world community for \$97 million to help 136,000 Armenian refugees. As a leader of human rights on the world stage, the United States should contribute a sizable portion of this request.

¹ "WHO refugee response in Armenia," *World Health Organisation*, 16 October 2023, accessible at <https://www.who.int/europe/news-room/photo-stories/item/who-refugee-response-in-armenia>.

² UN News, "Armenia: UN launches urgent appeal to help refugees fleeing Karabakh," *United Nations*, 7 October 2023, accessible at <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/10/1142017>.

³ Project HOPE, "Urgent Health Needs of Refugees in Armenia," *ReliefWeb*, 18 October 2023, accessible at <https://reliefweb.int/report/armenia/urgent-health-needs-refugees-armenia>.

On a separate matter, it is clear to us that the actions of the Aliyev regime represent ethnic cleansing and cultural genocide. By all accounts, there are few to no Armenians left in Azerbaijan, one of their ancestral homelands, after they were forced to flee following months of starvation and embargo by Azerbaijan capped by a military assault. We urge your administration to work with relevant authorities and international partners to document evidence of ethnic cleaning on the ground in Azerbaijan and use all tools available to prosecute and hold accountable those individuals who have committed gross human rights violations.

Thank you for your continued leadership advancing American interests, championing human rights, and fighting for a more peaceful and equitable world.

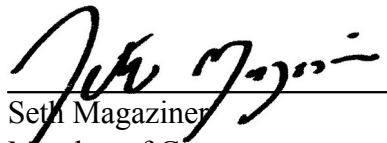
Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Sheldon Whitehouse, written in a cursive style.

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

A blue ink signature of Jack Reed, written in a cursive style.

Jack Reed
United States Senator

A blue ink signature of Seth Magaziner, written in a cursive style.

Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress