

Item 6b1 - CF 20-0004-S1 - Republic of Artsakh / Azerbaijan Military Forces / Ceasefire / Commendatory Resolution

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on September 26, 2020, Azerbaijan's military forces launched a deadly and unprovoked attack against the Republic of Artsakh, including that country's capital city, Stepanakert, and that attack has already taken innocent civilian lives; and

WHEREAS, this reckless invasion is a direct threat not only to the Armenian population that has lived in Artsakh for millennia, but also to regional stability and to fundamental United States interests; and

WHEREAS, during a time when the United Nations has called for a ceasefire around the world due to the COVID pandemic, Azerbaijan instead is renewing warfare, violating its ceasefire agreement with Armenia, and causing death and destruction; and

WHEREAS, Turkey has already thrown its full support to Azerbaijan's invasion and has threatened Armenia, and in this context the Azeri invasion carries the echoes of generations of pan-Turkish nationalist commitment to erasing the Armenian population and culture from the world; and

WHEREAS, any statement of moral equivalence of the parties, in the face of Azerbaijan's continued ceasefire violations, military incursions, bellicose threats of massive violence, and acts of aggression against civilians, is entirely unacceptable, yet the United States still refuses to state clearly that there is only one perpetrator responsible for the violence, bloodshed and instability in the region, and that is Azerbaijan; and

WHEREAS, the interests of the United States will be harmed by instability in this vital region, and our reputation in the international community will be damaged by our failure to contribute meaningfully to lasting peace; and

WHEREAS, because our country is based on and committed to the values of democracy, liberty and the right of self-determination, the United States has a moral obligation to stand up and speak out on behalf of the people of the Republic of Artsakh, who have earned their right of self-governance and have flourished as a free, democratic and sovereign nation for almost 30 years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has a long and clear record of supporting the people of Artsakh, including hosting the President of Artsakh in City Hall in 2010, creating a Friendship City relationship with the town of Shushi in 2012, and formally recognizing Artsakh's independence in 2014;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this resolution the City of Los Angeles calls upon President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to condemn Azerbaijan unequivocally for its latest violation of the ceasefire, and to demand an immediate and permanent cessation of all Azeri hostile action; and

SEP 29 2020



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Los Angeles calls upon the Trump Administration and the United States Congress to take immediate action to cease all military support and cooperation with Azerbaijan, including suspending all arms shipments to Azerbaijan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Los Angeles calls upon the Trump Administration to utilize all diplomatic, economic and political means to compel Azerbaijan to engage meaningfully in the peace process, through the Minsk Group or otherwise, to achieve a sustainable, lasting peace that ensures the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Artsakh.

Presented by: Paul Krekorian
PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, 2nd District

Seconded by: Nancy Martinez

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