

SAVE KARABAKH.ORG

EDA Generalsekretariat
Herrn Bundesrat Ignazio Cassis
Bundeshaus West
3003 Bern

16 May 2023

Dear Mr. Cassis,

It has been 155 days since Azerbaijan launched its latest campaign of aggression against the 120,00 Armenian Christians of Nagorno Karabakh, by imposing a blockade against this existentially threatened community.

147 days have also passed since our organizations issued a joint Genocide Warning for the region, due to the emergence of conditions for a new phase of the Armenian Genocide in Nagorno Karabakh. We urged the member states of the United Nations to fulfill their obligation to prevent genocide.

Meanwhile, the political influence of Azerbaijan's Aliyev regime grows daily throughout the Western world, as its dependence on oil imports from Azerbaijan increases.

In these dark days, we were heartened by two legislative resolutions that came out of Switzerland: The resolution passed by the Council of State's Foreign Affairs Committee on 9 January 2023, and a resolution of the Grand Council of Geneva, dated 14 October 2022, entitled, "For the Survival of Armenia."

The former called on Switzerland to work with the UN Security Council to end the blockade of Nagorno Karabakh and organize a humanitarian airlift to its civilian population. The latter called on the Swiss Federal Council to condemn Azerbaijan's aggression against Armenia and recognize the right of self-determination of the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh, in line with the Madrid Principles adopted by the OSCE.

When taken together, these two resolutions present a clear policy framework for the UN Security Council to protect the vulnerable Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh. With Switzerland now occupying the Presidency of the UN Security Council, it is uniquely positioned to pursue such a constructive policy.

To date, however, there has been no public sign that the UN Security Council intends to act to prevent the destruction of Nagorno Karabakh's population.

We urge Switzerland to use the few weeks remaining in its Presidency of the UN Security Council to guide through a resolution based on the principles found in the resolutions of the Council of States and the Grand Council of Geneva.

In your first address to the Security Council on 3 May, you declared, “The multilateral system is under stress, but no, it is not bankrupt! It is time for the Security Council to grasp its responsibilities and to reflect on its potential for action in the face of the increasing number of crises.”

We strongly agree. By moving the Security Council to act to save Nagorno Karabakh, Switzerland can help make these words reality.

Respectfully,

The Save Karabakh Coalition

Organizations

American Friends of Kurdistan

Armenian Assembly of America

Armenian Bar Association

Armenian National Committee of America

Christian Solidarity International

Genocide Watch

Hellenic American Leadership Council

Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust

In Defense of Christians

The Lemkin Institute for Genocide
Prevention

The Philos Project

Individuals

The Baroness (Caroline) Cox
Independent member of the House
of Lords

Justin Murff
Executive Director of The Anglican
Office for Government &
International Affairs

Sheila Paylan
International Human Rights
Lawyer and Activist

David L. Phillips
Institute for the Study of Human
Rights Columbia University