

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 1, 2020

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

We write to express our deep concern with Azerbaijan's renewed aggression against Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh) and the rising possibility of a wider conflict with Armenia. We ask that the Administration use all available diplomatic tools to reduce tensions, end the fighting, and restrain Azerbaijan from further offensive actions.

As you know, this weekend Azerbaijan launched the most significant offensive against Artsakh in years, and the resulting conflict has caused substantial casualties and damage on both sides. This action is a continuation of increasingly bellicose rhetoric from President Aliyev and his regime towards Artsakh and Armenia, including the threat earlier this year by the Azerbaijani Minister of Defense to bomb a Armenian nuclear power plant. The sustained and coordinated nature of this action makes clear this attack is qualitatively distinct from previous exchanges of sniper fire or artillery across the line of contact, but appears to represent a planned military operation.

Of additional concern is that Azerbaijan is receiving material assistance and encouragement from Turkey in taking this action. Turkey's involvement raises the danger of a sustained regional conflict that would be a humanitarian disaster and undermine important U.S. national security priorities.

In our view, this new round of fighting represents further evidence that the U.S. policy of equivalence between Armenia and Azerbaijan has failed. For far too long, the United States and other members of the Minsk Group have drawn a false equivalence between Armenia and Azerbaijan, even as the latter threatens war and refuses to agree to monitoring along the line of contact.

The United States has provided tens of millions of dollars in military assistance to Azerbaijan in recent years, while seemingly remaining unable or unwilling to restrain the Aliyev government from offensive military actions or gross human rights violations. This policy is a failure, and we must choose a different course.

In light of recent developments, we call upon the Department of State to take the following steps:

- 1) Clearly and unequivocally condemn Azerbaijan's unprovoked aggression, and make clear that if they do not exercise restraint it will call into question the continuance of U.S. assistance;

2) Work with the OSCE Minsk Group to call upon the Aliyev government to cease all offensive uses of force against both Artsakh and Armenia, and to commit to a purely peaceful resolution of status and security issues related to Artsakh;

3) Work with the Minsk Group to press Azerbaijan to accept international monitoring along the line of contact, as called for in the Royce-Engel proposals; and;

4) Engage at a senior level with Turkey to make clear that the encouragement of Azerbaijan's recent actions is detrimental to the cause of peace and regional stability.

Thank you for your attention to these requests. We stand ready to meet with you and to work with your colleagues toward a peaceful, durable, and democratic resolution of Artsakh status and security issues.

Sincerely,



Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

/s  
Gus Bilirakis  
Member of Congress

/s  
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

/s  
Devin Nunes  
Member of Congress

/s  
TJ Cox  
Member of Congress

/s  
Mike Garcia  
Member of Congress

/s  
David Cicilline  
Member of Congress

/s  
Andy Levin  
Member of Congress

/s  
Grace Napolitano  
Member of Congress

/s  
Linda Sanchez  
Member of Congress

/s  
Brenda Lawrence  
Member of Congress

/s  
Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress

/s  
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

/s  
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

/s  
Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

/s  
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

/s  
Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

/s  
Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress

/s  
Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress

/s  
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

/s  
Jim McGovern  
Member of Congress

/s  
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

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John Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

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Brian Mast  
Member of Congress

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Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress

/s  
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

/s  
Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

/s  
Jason Crow  
Member of Congress

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Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

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Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress

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Lou Correa  
Member of Congress

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Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress

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Josh Harder  
Member of Congress

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John Moolenaar  
Member of Congress

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Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

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Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress

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Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress

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Jim Langevin  
Member of Congress

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Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress

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Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress

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Katherine M. Clark  
Member of Congress

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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

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Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress

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Steve King  
Member of Congress

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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress

/s  
Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress

/s  
Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress