

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

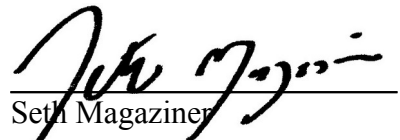
wounded nearly 300 as thousands of ethnic Armenians fled Nagorno-Karabakh in fear of violence from Azerbaijani forces. This horrific incident tragically underscores the urgent need for humanitarian aid and access.

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.

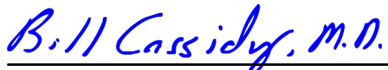
Sincerely,



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



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



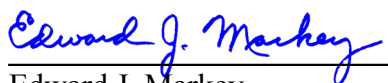
David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



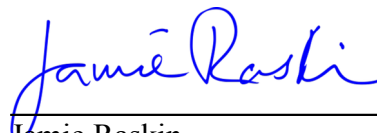
John Fetterman
United States Senator



Charles J. "Chuck"
Fleischmann
Member of Congress



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



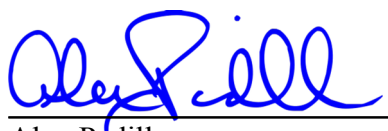
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



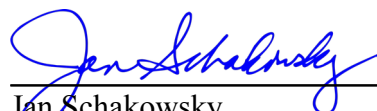
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



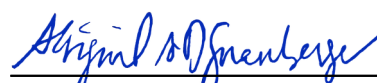
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Jan Schakowsky
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Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress



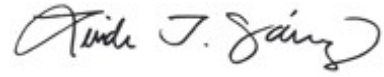
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Barbara Lee
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Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



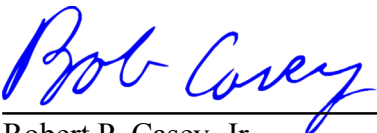
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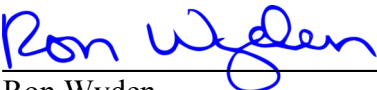
Ro Khanna
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Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



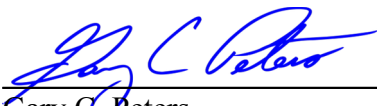
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



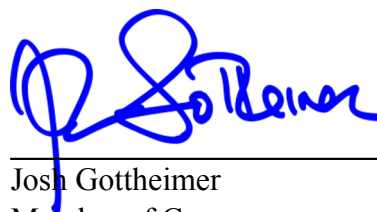
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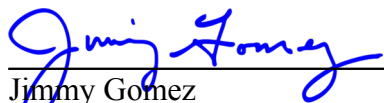
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
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Jim Costa
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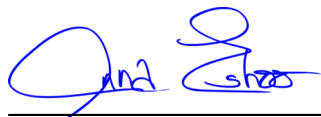
Stephen F. Lynch
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Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



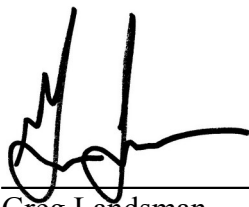
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Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



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Greg Landsman
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Robert J. Menendez
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Dina Titus
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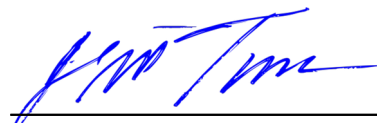
Jake Auchincloss
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Danny K. Davis
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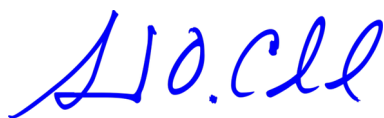
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Salud Carbajal
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Mikie Sherrill
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Andy Kim
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



C. A. Dutch Ruppberger
Member of Congress



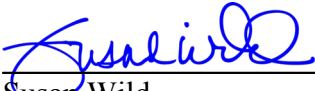
Shri Thanedar
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Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



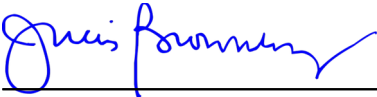
Chellie Pingree
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Susan Wild
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



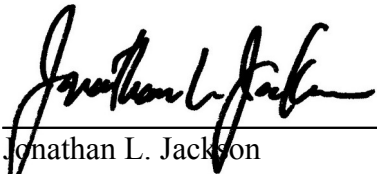
Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Cori Bush
Member of Congress