



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **ARMENIAN COMMUNITY OF EAST COAST TO PROTEST AZERBAIJAN'S ATTACKS ON ARTSAKH (NAGORNO-KARABAKH) & ARMENIA**

- WHAT:** Demonstration against the recent attacks by the Azerbaijani government on the peaceful population of the Republics of Artsakh and Armenia
- WHEN:** Saturday, October 10, 2020 at 12:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** Starting at NBC Studios, 50<sup>th</sup> Street between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Marching to ABC Studios, 77 West 66<sup>th</sup> Street
- WHO:** The Armenian community of the East Coast

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Since September 27, Azerbaijan has launched a full offensive attack along the border of the Armenian-populated Artsakh Republic in violation of a ceasefire agreement signed in 1994 and 2016. Artsakh's capital and surrounding civilian villages have been under heavy bombardment, with significant civilian casualties. The conflict between Artsakh and Azerbaijan dates back to the early 20th century. Nagorno-Karabakh (known as Artsakh in Armenian) is an integral part of historic Armenia that was arbitrarily carved out in 1921 by Joseph Stalin and placed under Soviet Azerbaijani administration, but with autonomous status. Nagorno-Karabakh has never been part of an independent Azerbaijani state. During seven decades of Soviet Azerbaijani rule, the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh was subjected to discriminatory policies aimed at its removal. Even after these efforts to force Armenians from their land, Nagorno-Karabakh's population in 1988 was over 80% Armenian. Following a peaceful demand by Karabakh's legislative body to reunite the region with Armenia in 1988, Azerbaijan launched an ethnic cleansing campaign against individuals of Armenian descent with pogroms against civilians in several towns, including Sumgait and Baku. On September 2, 1991, the people of Nagorno-Karabakh declared independence from the Soviet Union and became the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. On December 10, 1991, Nagorno-Karabakh held an independence referendum in which 82% of all voters participated and 99% voted for independence. In response, Azerbaijan launched an all-out war against the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. Since a ceasefire agreement was made in 1994, Nagorno-Karabakh has repeatedly demonstrated its commitment to a peaceful, compromise resolution of the conflict.

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[For interviews, contact Natalie Diratsouian, Esq. at (646) 761-4568 Karén Tonoyan, Esq at (201) 410-9941]

