



11 February 2021

To: Honorable Karima Bennoune
UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights
c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights CH-1211 Geneva 10 Switzerland
Email: srculturalrights@ohchr.org

To: Honorable Ahmed Shaheed UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief
c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights CH-1211 Geneva 10 Switzerland
E-mail: freedomofreligion@ohchr.org

To the Honorable Karima Bennoune and Honorable Ahmed Shaheed:

We represent three of the leading organizations for the promotion of scholarship and research in the field of Armenian Studies, the Association Internationale des Études Arméniennes (AIEA), the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), and Society for Armenian Studies (SAS). We have read and reviewed the report dated January 21, 2021, and submitted to you by the Armenian Bar Association and the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, and support wholeheartedly the report's presentation of facts and its recommendations.

We join with the Armenian Bar Association and the Mother See in respectfully urging the Special Rapporteurs to intervene to protect cultural heritage and the freedom to exercise religious rights in Nagorno Karabakh.

Sincerely,

Prof. Valentina Calzolari, University of Geneva, President, Association Internationale des Études Arméniennes (AIEA)

Prof. Bedross Der Matossian, University of Nebraska, President, Society for Armenian Studies (SAS)

Mr. Marc A. Mamigonian, Director of Academic Affairs, National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR)