

To:

His Excellency Robert Rae

Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations in New York

466 Lexington Avenue, 20th Floor New York, NY 10017, USA

212-848-1100

canada.un@international.gc.ca

5 January, 2023

Dear UN Ambassador Rae,

On behalf of all Canadian-Armenian associations unified across Canada and the U.S., as well as countless non-Armenian allies and human rights organisations, we write to you with tremendous urgency in regards to the European Union's most recent oil partner Azerbaijan, and the humanitarian and economic terrorism the emboldened country is freely committing against the innocent people of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh).

As of December 12th 2022, the Lachin corridor, the only route connecting the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) to Armenia and the outside world, has been blocked by a group of Azerbaijanis pretending to be "eco-activists", along with uniformed Azerbaijani military servicemen. Basic necessary supplies such as food, medicine, and humanitarian aid are being denied to a population of over 120,000 civilians, 30,000 of which are children. This is the verge of a major humanitarian catastrophe.

The State Minister of the Republic of Artsakh has warned of a clear attempt by the Azerbaijani government to commit genocide and ethnic cleansing in Artsakh.

Human rights expert Sheila Paylan argues that "the international community should take its R2P commitments more seriously or risk becoming silently complicit in the next Armenian genocide—or ethnic cleansing." Of course, R2P being the program which was unanimously adopted in 2005 at the UN World Summit, to ensure the international community does not fail to stop crimes of genocide, war crimes, and ethnic cleansing.

In Canada, we have heard statements for action from Honorable Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs, MP Heather McPherson, MP Emmanuella Lambropoulos, MP Han Dong, MP Michael Chong, MP Annie Koutrakis, MP Fayzal El-Khoury, and several Députés to reopen the Lachin corridor. Sadly, these statements for immediate action seem to have fallen on deaf ears.

As proven during these tumultuous and violent 2 years against the Armenian people, the Russian peacekeeping mission in Artsakh established after the November 2020 trilateral statement between Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan for a 5 year term, is unable to maintain peace, and protect the very basic well being of the civilians, and an additional peacekeeping mission is needed. Artsakh urgently requires an alternative international peace mission that will support the prevention of further aggression. The United Nations must work with the democratic

governments of Armenia and Artsakh, to establish and provide a proper international peacekeeping contingency, open humanitarian air corridor, and to ensure further peace talks and negotiations. It's quite simple, Armenia and Artsakh only want PEACE¹!

Ambassador Rae, we are asking that you please lead with all your colleagues and with the Canadian Government, including Minister Joly and The Right Honorable Prime Minister Trudeau, and insist with firm sanctioning measures, that the Azerbaijani dictatorial regime immediately lift the blockade, and ensure the unhindered flow of all supplies to Artsakh is permanently restored. The starving and dying children of Artsakh depend on your actions right now.

The community leaders and human rights advocates would greatly appreciate having an opportunity to meet virtually with his Excellency and discuss the current humanitarian crisis in Artsakh.

Yours Sincerely,

Signed by:

- HAYREN Partners for Humanity
- Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention
- Global Movement for Myanmar Democracy: GM4MD
- Tekeyan Armenian cultural Association
- Armenian Democratic liberal Party
- First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal
- Bolsahay Cultural Association
- Armenian Diocese of Canada
- Human Rights Central Committee of Armenia, Russia in the USA
- Barev youth center
- Armenian Bar Association
- US Armenian Council for Human Rights
- Armenian General Benevolent Union: AGBU
- AGBU Young Professionals - Toronto
- AGBU Young Professionals - Montreal
- Armenian medical association of Quebec: AMAQ

¹ Artsakh kids flashmob to open the road to life:
<https://voiceofarmenians.com/programs/open-the-road-to-life>