



**ARMENIAN DELEGATION**  
**TO THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**



**Yerevan, 16 February 2023**

**TO: Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**

Honorable members of the OSCE PA,

As the Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is approaching, the Armenian delegation to the OSCE PA would like to draw the attention of all national delegations to the current security challenges and the humanitarian situation in our region, with the hope that these issues will also be raised during the sessions. We ask you to kindly consider contributing to such a discussion.

- **The blockade of the Lachin Corridor.** Since December 12, 2022, Azerbaijan has been blocking the Lachin Corridor, thus cutting off the only road connecting Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia and the rest of the world. By this, the Azerbaijani side has put the 120,000 Armenian residents of Nagorno-Karabakh under a complete siege, causing a dire humanitarian crisis. For already more than two months, people in Nagorno-Karabakh receive food, medication, and fuel by daily portions. Thousands of people, including children, are stranded on the different sides of the blockade with no possibility to return home. Azerbaijan also periodically cuts the gas supply to Nagorno-Karabakh under severe winter conditions. The blocking of the Lachin Corridor constitutes a gross violation of the international obligations assumed by the Trilateral Statement of November 9, 2020, which states that “The Republic of Azerbaijan shall guarantee safe movement of citizens, vehicles, and cargo in both directions along the Lachin Corridor.”
- **Rhetoric of war and authoritarianism.** This siege is a continuation of Azerbaijan’s consistent policy of harassment and terror towards the population of Nagorno-Karabakh, aimed at achieving their eventual and complete forced displacement. On January 10, 2023, in an interview with local media, the President of Azerbaijan spoke about the Lachin Corridor blockade saying the following, “Whoever doesn’t want to become our citizens can leave, the road is open. They can go by the cars of the peacekeepers, by buses, no one will impede them”.
- **Invasion into the Republic of Armenia.** Since May 12, 2021, the armed forces of Azerbaijan have initiated an invasion into the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia. The invasion was expanded again in November 2021 and September 2022, resulting in the occupation of over 140 sq km of sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia, causing multiple casualties among the Armenian armed forces and civilians, as well as massive destruction of civilian infrastructure. This invasion has resulted in gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including the right to life

and the prohibition of torture. Days after this aggression, horrific videos appeared on Azerbaijani social media documenting the extrajudicial executions and mutilation of the bodies of the Armenian prisoners of war.

- **Return of the Armenian prisoners of war and other detainees.** To this date, Azerbaijan neglects its own international commitments and refuses to return the Armenian prisoners of war and other detained persons held illegally in Azerbaijan since the 44-day war in Nagorno-Karabakh in 2020.

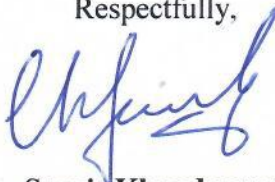
Dear colleagues,

Armenia believes that only peaceful dialogue can solve issues and establish stability and prosperity in our region. Therefore, Armenia stands ready to advance the peace process with Azerbaijan with the mutual recognition of each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Armenia does not have territorial claims towards Azerbaijan or any of its neighbors. The Nagorno-Karabakh issue is about the rights and security of the Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, and this should be addressed through an internationally visible dialogue between Baku and Stepanakert. Armenia is ready to open all transport and economic infrastructures in the region within the frames of the agreements reached on maintaining the sovereignty of the countries and the jurisdiction over the roads.

The above-mentioned challenges and threats have been raised by targeted reactions of the international community. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, national and regional parliaments and parliamentarians of many countries, including the United States, France, the United Kingdom, Canada, Spain, the Netherlands, Sweden among others, have directly called Azerbaijan to stop the blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh, to release the Armenian prisoners of war, to fulfill its international obligations and commitments, to refrain from its inflammatory rhetoric and to negotiate for a comprehensive peace treaty in good faith.

We believe that the OSCE PA and its member delegations, having regard to the Organization's objective of developing and promoting mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts and being committed to regional security and stability and the protection of human rights, should call on Azerbaijan to implement its international obligations, to refrain from violence, and to be committed to the Helsinki Principles.

Respectfully,



**Sargis Khandanyan**

Head of Delegation