



For Immediate Release

October 5, 2023

AHEPA Supreme President Condemns ethnic cleansing of Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh region

Washington, DC

On behalf of the international membership of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Order of AHEPA), which was founded in Atlanta in 1922 on the principles that undergirded its fight for civil rights and against discrimination, bigotry, and hatred, I write to condemn recent human rights violations to Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh.

We strongly condemn the ethnic cleansing of more than 100,000 ethnic Armenians who were expelled from Nagorno-Karabakh by Azerbaijan in recent weeks. We stand with the people of Armenia and Armenia's diaspora during this horrific time of gross human rights violations and war atrocities committed by Azerbaijan, disrupting peace and stability in that region.

The expulsion follows military attacks by Azerbaijan in mid-September to regain control over Nagorno-Karabakh and a nine-month blockade of a main corridor that resulted in a severe shortage of food, medicine, and other essential goods and supplies, and cut-off utilities, that left Armenians devastated.

Respect for human rights, including for ethnic minorities, and international law must be upheld as sacrosanct. The government of Azerbaijan's word cannot be trusted given its abysmal human rights record. It must be held accountable. Therefore, we call for the international community, led by the United States, to properly record the human rights abuses and other crimes committed by Azerbaijan and applaud Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Ben Cardin's call for the U.S. to halt security assistance to Azerbaijan. The entities that will participate in talks with Azerbaijan going forward must ensure and protect the right of return of ethnic Armenians to Nagorno-Karabakh, whether it be temporarily or for the long-term, should they choose to do so. International monitoring must be in place to report on the conditions of ethnic Armenians that have remained or would happen to choose to return to Nagorno-Karabakh.

Sincerely,

Savas C. Tsivicos
International President

AHEPA is the largest and oldest Greek American organization with more than 500 chartered chapters across the United States, Canada, Europe, Greece, and Cyprus; and sister chapters in Australia and New Zealand. Founded in 1922 to protect Greek-Americans from the evils of bigotry, its mission, to promote the ideals of Hellenism, philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family & individual excellence.