



DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF ORANGE COUNTY

Resolution #23-05-1

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOLDING THE AZERBAIJANI GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE FOR ITS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND FOR ENSURING THE SAFETY OF ARMENIANS IN ARTSAKH

WHEREAS, Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh) is the ancestral homeland of the Armenian people and has been a center of Armenian language, culture, and religion, having maintained its autonomy for over two millennia, until it was arbitrarily and illegally separated from Armenia by Joseph Stalin in 1921 and placed under the administrative control of Soviet Azerbaijan; and

WHEREAS, in response to escalating anti-Armenian violence in Sumgait (1988), Kirovabad (1988), and Baku (1990), which resulted in hundreds of deaths and the forced displacement of over 400,000 Armenians, the Armenians of Artsakh exercised their right to self-determination and declared their independence on September 2, 1991 in accordance to the Soviet Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

WHEREAS, Azerbaijan launched a war against Artsakh in September 2020, perpetrated countless human rights and international humanitarian law violations against the Armenians of Artsakh, and has imposed an illegal blockade since December 12, 2022 which has completely severed Artsakh's "Road of Life" that connects it to the world, thus preventing the transport of food, fuel, medicine, and other vital humanitarian supplies to the region, and leaving Artsakh's 120,000 Armenians, including 30,000 children and 20,000 elderly, facing critical shortages of life-sustaining goods;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party calls on President Biden's Administration to immediately take action to hold Azerbaijan accountable for its human rights abuses and war crimes through the enforcement of restrictions on the provision of military assistance to Azerbaijan pursuant to Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act, through the imposition of targeted sanctions on Azerbaijani officials involved directly in the commissioning of war crimes, and ensure the security of the 120,000 Armenians of Artsakh through the introduction of a United Nations Security Council resolution to establish a United Nations Peacekeeping Mission for Nagorno-Karabakh, and the delivery of USAID Humanitarian Assistance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party sends copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Secretary of State, to the United States Agency for International Development's Administrator, and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Author: Dr. Suzie Abajian

**Adopted by the Democratic Party of Orange County
Central Committee on May 22, 2023**