



ԱՐՏԱՍՔԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԱՐՏԱՔԻՆ ԳՈՐԾԵՐԻ ՆԱԽԱՐԱՐ
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARTSAKH

05/0262/2021
February 3, 2021

H.E. Antony J. BLINKEN
Secretary of State
United States of America

Your Excellency:

I am writing to congratulate you on your appointment as the United States Secretary of State. We in Artsakh value the relations between our nations. The United States was among the first countries to express support to the democratic aspirations of our people, and is a home to the second largest Armenian Diaspora in the world.

We appreciate efforts of the United States as a Co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group towards finding a lasting settlement of the Azerbaijan-Karabakh conflict based on our shared values of human rights and democracy. We firmly believe that it can be comprehensively settled and prevented from recurring exclusively through effective elimination of both the root cause of the conflict associated with Azerbaijan's unwillingness to recognize the legitimate and inalienable right of the people of Artsakh to self-determination, and the consequences of the repeated illegal use of military force by Azerbaijan against our Republic.

The denial of the right to self-determination is a violation of human rights. We are convinced that the recognition of the will of the people of Artsakh is a cornerstone of the permanent settlement to the Azerbaijan-Karabakh conflict that protects the security of Artsakh on the basis of respect for our shared values of freedom, human rights, democracy and peace.

I would also like to take this opportunity to emphasize the urgency of returning the prisoners of war and detained civilians from Azerbaijan. At this stage, this is the most important issue that needs to be resolved in order to alleviate the suffering of the people, both those who are in captivity, as well as their families.

Mr. Secretary, the people of Artsakh are also grateful to the American nation for the annual assistance, which helps overcome the most acute humanitarian challenges in the Republic, and improve the daily life of our citizens. The assistance of the United States is even more demanded today in view of the humanitarian catastrophe caused by the recent aggression.

I do hope that a continued cooperation between the Republic of Artsakh and the United States will promote the goal, and help establish a lasting peace, stability and economic prosperity in the South Caucasus.

Once again, Mr. Secretary, I congratulate you on your appointment, and wish you and your colleagues at the State Department a successful service to the American nation.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'D' followed by several loops and a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

David BABAYAN