

## **GARO YEGNUKIAN, ESQ.**

205 Greenway North, Forest Hills, NY 11375 USA  
Phone: +1.718.387.0800 E-Mail: [garo@yegnukian.com](mailto:garo@yegnukian.com)

8 Zakyan Street, Apt. 37, Yerevan, 0015 Armenia  
Phone: +374.93.209347 E-Mail: [garo@erebuni.net](mailto:garo@erebuni.net)

March 26, 2024

Kristina Kvien  
Ambassador of the United States of America  
U.S. Embassy Yerevan  
1 American Avenue  
Yerevan 0082, Republic of Armenia

Dear Ambassador Kvien:

I am reaching out to you as a United States' citizen, who is being unjustly persecuted by the Armenian government and prevented from leaving Armenia to travel to the United States for medical treatment.

In way of background, I hold both U.S. and Armenian citizenships and have partially resided in Armenia since 2009. I am the CEO of Yegnukian Realty Corp. (since 1981), a family-owned and operated real estate development and management company that owns commercial real estate in five US states. After being admitted to the New York State Bar in 1992, I have also acted as corporate council for the company.

I was recently diagnosed with acute heart disease, with the need for immediate open-heart surgery. In the past all my medical needs were cared for in the US, where I have full health insurance coverage. Starting April 2024, when I turn 65, I will also be eligible for the Social Security and will be covered under Medicare. I would like to have that surgery done in New York, in my home town. However, I am not allowed to leave Armenia by the order of the Armenian court.

Please note that this travel ban is just one of many acts of political persecution that I have been subjected to since 2009, which until now I have dealt with on my own. However, now I have little choice, but to seek your help, since my situation is life threatening. I am hereby asking a favor of your good offices' intervention with the local authorities so that they can lift the travel restrictions illegally imposed on me to allow me to receive medical care.

I should note that in November 2023, during a well-publicized meeting in Yerevan with a visiting U.S. Helsinki Congressional delegation, led by Congressman Joe Wilson (R-SC) and included Congresswoman Victoria Spartz (R-IN) and the Executive Director of Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Steven Schrage, I had an opportunity to discuss in detail with Representatives Wilson and Spartz and Director Schrage about the Armenian government's years of legal and political persecution against me and the restrictions on my travel to the United States.

## **GARO YEGNUKIAN, ESQ.**

205 Greenway North, Forest Hills, NY 11375 USA  
Phone: +1.718.387.0800 E-Mail: [garo@yegnukian.com](mailto:garo@yegnukian.com)

8 Zakyan Street, Apt. 37, Yerevan, 0015 Armenia  
Phone: +374.93.209347 E-Mail: [garo@erebuni.net](mailto:garo@erebuni.net)

Today, on March 26, I submitted an Emergency Motion to the court asking them to lift the ban on my travel within three days due to the urgency of the matter. I have also informed the court in my motion that if it denies the motion again or fails to respond in three days, I will immediately appeal to the European Court of Human Rights with an emergency request to lift the travel ban.

I will be sharing this letter with Director Schrage and Representatives Wilson and Spartz, along with my own Representatives, Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and Congresswoman Meng.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of my request and stand ready to provide any additional information that you may find necessary, including documents pertaining to my medical diagnoses, submitted Emergency Motion to the court, etc.

Sincerely yours,  
Garó Yegnúkian

CC:

The Honorable Joe Wilson, Member of Congress, Chair of the US Helsinki Commission  
The Honorable Victoria Spartz, Member of Congress  
The Honorable Grace Meng, Member of Congress  
The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Senator from New York  
The Honorable Kristen Gillibrand, Senator from New York  
The Honorable Steven Schrage, Executive Director of Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe