



Refrain from signing the inflammatory and falsehood-laden letter released by Congressman Pallone and Senator Markey, which is detrimental to the peace process between Armenia and Azerbaijan

Fri, Sep

Honorable
Member
U.S. Congress

Dear Representative ;

I am writing to ask you to **refrain from signing** the inflammatory and falsehood-laden letter released by Congressman Pallone and Markey, which is detrimental to the peace process between Armenia and Azerbaijan, **which is also supported by the U.S. Governm**

DO NOT SIGN https://x.com/ANCA_DC/status/1835791215880491272?t=ajSg4e1pxKEmO1-gYSfP5w&s=08

Armenia's own government supports Azerbaijan's bid to host COP29. On December 7, 2023, a joint statement was rel Azerbaijan and Armenia (a copy is attached), through which as a gesture of goodwill and humanism, Azerbaijan released 32 and released 2 military servicemen. **Importantly, Armenia supported Azerbaijan's bid to host COP29 and Azerbaijan suppo Armenian candidature for Eastern European Group COP Bureau membership.**

This development stands out as a monumental instance of the goodwill that both countries have shown each other since the peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia began. It is a stride in diplomacy that has furthered trust between Baku and Yerevan.

Doubly important is that the accusations levied in the Pallone-Markey letter are simply not true. Those "Armenian detainees" h sentenced or being investigated for committing well-documented serious crimes such as war crimes and crimes against humanity, w no statute of limitations. Doing so is fully in line with the international legal obligations and domestic legislation.

[Read more below]

Members of Congress need to support initiatives that further trust and confidence building between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Conve Palone-Markey letter would simply undermine that trust. The messaging of the Pallone-Markey letter, and the lobbying efforts of the National Committee of America (ANCA) that influenced said messaging, are **not reflective of Yerevan's intentions to normalize with Azerbaijan. Instead of stoking tensions before the COP29 summit, it would be helpful to encourage further confidence measures in the run-up to the COP29 summit.**

On top of it, we owe Azerbaijan praise, an apology, and an open hand. **Azerbaijan has always been the staunchest partner of** providing full support on military operations and saving the lives of American servicemen globally. Our apology is long overdue for legal action against Armenian officials who committed ethnic cleansing and, by some American and international accounts, genocid Azerbaijani civilians. Even right now, hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijani IDPs cannot return to desecrated, land-mine-infested, a homes. And, of course, we should embrace Azerbaijan in order not to lose yet another secular Muslim and capable partner.

The Embassy of Azerbaijan stands ready to address any questions or concerns you may have regarding this matter. Should the nee would be happy to facilitate a meeting or provide any necessary written materials.

Respectfully,

Ezra Friedlander



The Prime Minister of the Republic of Armei

Read in online

<https://www.primeminister.am/en/press-release/item/2023/12/07/Announcement/>

Joint statement of the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

December 7, 2023

"The Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan share the view that there is a historical chance to achieve a long-awaited peace in the region. Two countries reconfirm their intention to normalize relations to reach a peace treaty on the basis of respect for the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Following the talks between the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, an agreement has been reached on taking tangible steps toward building confidence between the two countries.

Driven by the values of humanism and as a gesture of goodwill, the Republic of Azerbaijan releases 32 Armenian military servicemen.

In its turn, driven by the values of humanism and as a gesture of goodwill, the Republic of Armenia releases Azerbaijani military servicemen.

As a sign of good gesture, the Republic of Armenia supports the bid of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 29th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP29) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, withdrawing its own candidacy. The Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan do hope that the countries within the Eastern European Group will also support Azerbaijan's bid to host. As a sign of good gesture, the Republic of Azerbaijan supports the Armenian candidature for Eastern European Group COP Bureau membership.

Ruben Vardanyan is notorious Russian-Armenian oligarch who has allegedly long taken part in terrorist activity that undermined the security of Azerbaijan. He has been accused of financing terrorist activity against Azerbaijan, arming separatist gangs, and back channeling at least a billion dollars to offshore banks through money laundering schemes, plundering state resources when he was a senior official in his ill-formed separatist regime. One of the richest men in Russia, he served as Putin's wallet, and allegedly routinely helped him circumvent Western economic sanctions. While serving as Minister of State in the separatist government in Karabakh, it is alleged that his only purpose was to be Putin's political puppet in the region, and to direct Armenia's political policy to Putin's needs. While in Karabakh, Vardanyan was accused of smuggling essential chips for advanced weapons to Russia, ones that were crucial in Putin's war against Ukraine. Vardanyan allegedly provided financing for the Russian-Iranian-Armenian axis, in which Iran supplied Russia with suicide drones, Armenia supplied Russia with essential chips for advanced weapons, and transported the weapons that the Iranians sent to Russia through its territory. Vardanyan was a critical threat to the security of Karabakh, Azerbaijan, and Ukraine up until his arrest.

Arayik Harutyunyan is another leader of the former separatist regime that was arrested on charges of terrorism, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. While holding the position as 'President of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic', Harutyunyan is alleged to have actively engaged in recruiting, training and financing mercenaries that participated in armed conflict and military operations against Azerbaijani forces. In addition, Harutyunyan is accused of organizing and coordinating the activities of unauthorized armed groups, supplying them with weapon ammunition and military equipment, and providing financial support to terrorism. The gravest charge levied against him is his authorization of the launching of ballistic missiles targeting residential areas and civilian structures in the densely populated city of Ganja, as well as settlements in the Barda district located outside the frontline zone, during the Second Karabakh War. Ganja was hit by five rocket attacks, killing twenty seven civilians and injuring one hundred and twenty five others. Two rockets fired at Barda killed twenty six civilians and one hundred and five.

Sources:

<https://foreignpolicyblogs.com/2024/05/28/vardanyan-must-be-behind-bars/>

<https://jam-news.net/araik-harutyunyan-and-other-leaders-of-unrecognized-regime-in-karabakh-arrested/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_Ganja_missile_attacks

<https://foreignpolicyblogs.com/2024/05/28/vardanyan-must-be-behind-bars/>

Note: The Friedlander Group LLC has filed registration statements under the Foreign Agents Registration Act with regard to its representation and dissemination of information on behalf of the Republic of Armenia. Additional information is on file with the Foreign Agents Registration Unit of the Department of Justice in Washington, DC.