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Aramayis Aghabekyan Director of the NGO «The Power of Mind»

Tel: +374 41 59 99 11

Email:ujmtqi@gmail.com

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THE APPEAL OF THE POLITICAL AND CIVIL ORGANIZATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARTSAKH TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Addressees: UN Secretary General, Members of the UN Security Council, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, Council of Europe (Secretary General, PACE President, Chairman of the Committee of Ministers), President of the European Council, President of the European Commission, President of the European Parliament, CIS Secretary General, CSTO Secretary General, NATO Secretary General.

A free people cannot renounce its sovereign rights and submit to the rule of an alien state, especially one ruled for many years by an authoritarian, corrupt and racist regime, intoxicated by its impunity.

Our collective decision to leave our Homeland – the Republic of Artsakh (the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic), our homes, our Armenian churches, leaving behind the relics of Saint John the Baptist (Surb Hovhannes Mkrtich) and the graves of our ancestors, which we have protected for centuries, is the proof to the whole world that freedom is the highest value for the people of Artsakh. We have made this forced decision amidst ongoing genocidal actions and looming serious existential threats.

We made this decision because those who call themselves champions and defenders of freedom and human rights decided to deny us our right to live with dignity in our homeland and our right to self-determination, thus aiming to achieve an imaginary peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan and for the sake of their own geopolitical interests.

We left because it was the only way to guarantee our safety and preserve our human and national dignity and our gene pool, expose the big lie, on which the political idea of unilateral and forceful resolution of the conflict was based, by forcing us and our children to accept citizenship and swear allegiance to the regime that hates us.

For more than three decades, we have defended with all our might our children's right to peace and free development. We opposed the political deals that were offered to us at the expense of our sovereign right to live in our Homeland, won at the cost of lives and enormous sacrifices of many generations during the long centuries of struggle to preserve our national dignity and identity. And this struggle is not over. We are confident that we will regain our Motherland with the power of truth and justice.

For those who think that the world can be ruled by lies and brute force, we repeat the following:

The Nagorno Karabakh Republic (NKR) was proclaimed on September 2, 1991, by the legitimate authorities of the Nagorno Karabakh Autonomous Region (NKAO) and the Shahumyan Region of the Azerbaijani Soviet Social Republic, when the authorities of the latter announced their decision to secede

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from the USSR. The political Declaration on proclamation of the NKR was based on the legal norm of the Soviet law in force at that time and the will of the Artsakh people, expressed in a national referendum. Our right to self-determination was recognized even by the authorities of Soviet Russia and Azerbaijan in 1920, and became the basis for creation of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region in 1923, was enshrined in the constitution of the USSR, the constitution of the Azerbaijani Soviet Socialist Republic and its law "On NKAO", and was preserved in the Law "Concerning the procedure of secession of a Soviet Republic from the USSR" of April 3, 1990, and is also based on the UN Charter and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966. The referendum of December 10, 1991, confirmed that the absolute majority of voters supported the decision to declare the independence of our Republic. The legitimate parliament, elected according to democratic standards and in the conditions of a genocidal siege and armed aggression, adopted on January 6, 1992 the Declaration of Independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh. Thousands of our compatriots paid for this choice with their lives.

In 1992, all CSCE/OSCE member states recognized the right of elected representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh to participate in the OSCE international conference mandated to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. In a referendum in 2006, our people approved the Constitution of the Republic, which defined the procedure for electing legitimate representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh and their powers; in 2017, again in a referendum, the people approved a new Constitution. This Constitution was and remains the only fundamental document by which the citizens of our Republic are guided and obeyed of their own free will.

Accordingly, we, the citizens of the Republic of Artsakh, in an effort to defend our legal rights and the right to preserve the subjecthood of our Republic, affirm that the self-determined Nagorno-Karabakh did not take any part in the formation of the constitution and authorities of the self-proclaimed Republic of Azerbaijan, and, on the contrary, declared its independence. However, the newly formed Azerbaijan did not hide its baseless claims to Nagorno-Karabakh.

It was in such conditions that the international community recorded the fact that there were disagreements over the status of Nagorno-Karabakh, recognizing the disputed nature of this territory. Armenia and Azerbaijan then became participating countries of the CSCE/OSCE on the condition that they recognized the existence of disagreements over the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh and agreed that the future status of Nagorno-Karabakh would be determined at a peace conference under the auspices of the CSCE/OSCE. Both states have assumed an international obligation to resolve the issue exclusively by peaceful means.

However, once it became an CSCE/OSCE participating state, Azerbaijan immediately violated its international obligation to resolve disputes peacefully. Official Baku illegally used force against the NKR as a disputed territory in order to prevent holding an international conference to determine the status of Nagorno-Karabakh. In those conditions, the people of Nagorno-Karabakh exercised their right to self-defense. The armed aggression of Azerbaijan in 1992-1994 resulted in its defeat with significant territorial losses. It is important to emphasize that the Line of Contact between the NKR and Azerbaijan was internationally recognized.

However, during the three decades of the conflict, not a single statesman, politician or international legal authority answered a simple question: why Azerbaijan and other states that have legally recognized the obligation to follow the rule of law as a fundamental principle of their statehood, can disregard the obligation to respect the right of self-determination of Nagorno-Karabakh and the principle of non-use of force, both arising from that fundamental principle?

This circumstance allowed Azerbaijan to retain in its policy arsenal the strategy of annexation Nagorno-Karabakh through the forced expulsion of its indigenous people. Azerbaijan's aggressive policy has yet to receive due international condemnation. International actors, contrary to their international obligations to bear responsibility for protecting the population from genocide (Responsibility to Protect), unfortunately, did not pay due attention to the warnings contained in the Statement of the Parliament of Artsakh of July 27, 2023 about the most serious existential threats facing the population of Artsakh, did not prevent the criminal actions of Azerbaijan, which committed another military aggression against the

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NKR in September 2023 and completely expelled the indigenous Armenian population of Artsakh from their historical Homeland.

It should be recalled that after conclusion of truce on November 9, 2020, the President of Azerbaijan stated that the Nagorno-Karabakh problem no longer exists, and everyone must come to terms with the results of the Second Karabakh War. In an effort to change the essence of the conflict, Azerbaijan has introduced into its diplomatic vocabulary a false narrative of "Armenia's occupation of Azerbaijani lands," through which it attempts to mute legitimate concerns about its aggressive genocidal policy.

We do not intend to compromise our principles, beliefs and our rights in relation to our own Motherland, neither in the face of force, nor under the threat of destruction, neither in exile, nor under any other political circumstances.

The whole civilized world faces a choice today: either to restore the international order in Nagorno-Karabakh, based on respect for the right to self-determination and other rights and freedoms of peoples and human rights, or to agree that blockade, armed aggression, genocide and occupation are legitimate ways to resolve conflicts.

Today, leaders of many states speak about the need for the return of Armenians to Nagorno-Karabakh. However, we believe that for the peaceful, safe and dignified return and life of our people in their homeland the following indisputable conditions are required:

First, we rule out the return of citizens of the Republic of Artsakh to the jurisdiction of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijani armed forces, police and administration must be completely withdrawn from the territory of the Republic of Artsakh, including the Shahumyan region, where too Azerbaijan bears full responsibility for the ethnic cleansing in 1992.

Second, multinational international UN peacekeeping forces should be deployed along the entire border of the Republic of Artsakh, and a demilitarized zone should be created.

Third, the internationally recognized Lachine Corridor should be completely transferred to UN control and management.

Fourth, the territory of the Republic of Artsakh should be handed over to the UN control to ensure the conditions for the return of all refugees, formation of democratic and legal institutions and the restoration of the economy. All refugees must have equal status, equal rights and be subject to the common rules of the transitional period until a referendum is held to confirm the final political status of Nagorno-Karabakh, the result of which will be legally recognized by all states.

Fifth, the possibility of criminal prosecution by Azerbaijan of citizens of the Republic of Artsakh on any charges for the entire period of the conflict should be completely excluded. All arrested and already convicted Armenians in Azerbaijan must be released immediately. We are ready to recognize the competence of an international tribunal to investigate every war crime for which our citizens are accused, provided that in a similar way this tribunal will also address all war crimes committed by citizens of Azerbaijan and its mercenaries.

We are ready to do our best to contribute to achieving a peaceful resolution to the conflict, which will be based on the full respect for the right to self-determination and other internationally recognized human rights and freedoms of peoples.

Signers

1. "Unified Armenia" Party
2. "Tomorrow's Artsakh" Party
3. "Future Artsakh" Party
4. "Miasnakan Hayrenik" Party
5. "Revolutionary" Party

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6. "Ramkavar Azatakan Artsakh" Party
7. "Republican Party of Artsakh"
8. "Strong United Armenia" Party
9. Human Rights Ombudsman Gegham Stepanyan
10. Mayor of Hadrut Vahan Savadyan
11. Mayor of Askeran Hayk Shamiryan
12. Mayor of Martakert Misha Gyurdjyan
13. Mayor of Stepanakert David Sargsyan
14. Mayor of Chartar (Martuni Region) Vladik Hovhannisyan
15. Mayor of Shushi Artsvik Sargsyan
16. Mayor of Karvachar Varsenik Grigoryan
17. Head of Azokh Community Arayik Arzumanyan
18. Head of Aigestan Community Vitaly Shamiryan
19. Head of Aknahpyur Community Artur Babadzhanyan
20. Head of Aradjamuh Community Susanna Agababyan
21. Head of Arakel Community Kaytser Tigranyan
22. Head of Arevshat Community Artur Airapetyan
23. Head of Artashen Community Valery Sargsyan
24. Head of Banadzor Community Kamo Musaelyan
25. Head of Vardashat Community Ruslan Soghomonyan
26. Head of Jrakus Community Valery Babayan
27. Head of Drakhtik Community Vitaly Mirzoyan
28. Head of Karmrakuch Community Sergey Hakobyan
29. Head of Kyuratakh Community Zori Poghosyan
30. Head of Mariamadzor Community Norayr Arzumanyan
31. Head of Mets Tager Community Andrey Altunyan
32. Head of Mokhrenes Community Artik Poghosyan
33. Head of Norashen Community Avetisyan Armen
34. Head of Tagaser Community Armen Budagyan
35. Head of Tagot Community Armen Gukasyan
36. Head of Togh Community Vardan Grigoryan
37. Head of Tumi Community Edik Mosiyan
38. Head of Ukhtadzor Community Vrezh Balasanyan
39. Head of Khakaku Community Khachik Hakobyan
40. Head of Khandzadzor Community Armen Mkrtchyan
41. Head of Hin Tagher Community Edik Ayvazyan
42. Head of Khtsaberd Community Alexander Avanesyan
43. Head of Tsakuri Community Kamo Khachatryan
44. Head of Tsamdzor Community Karo Minasyan
45. Head of Vank Community Andrey Sargsyan
46. Head of Hovsepavan Community Karen Danielyan
47. Head of Avetaranots Community Smbat Madatyan
48. Head of Khndzristan Community Aleksey Avanesyan
49. Head of Nor Verinshen community Samvel Mnatsakanyan
50. Mayor of Berdzor Narek Aleksanyan
51. Head of Getap community Karen Manukyan
52. Head of Alashkert community Bagrat Navasardyan
53. Head of Mush community Petros Avetisyan
54. Head of Yeritsvank community Zarzand Miakayelyan
55. Head of Tsaghkaberd community Arshak Harutyunyan

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56. Head of Aghanus community Artak Abrahamyan
57. Head of Ahavnatun community Hamlet Khachatryan
58. Head of Aygek community Melik Melikyan
59. Head of Aygehovit community Gor Hakobyan
60. Head of Artashavi community Eduard Mikayelyan,
61. Head of Arakhish community Ashot Simonyan
62. Head of Gandza community Harutyun Tadevosyan
63. Head of the Getamedj community Grisha Melkonyan,
64. Head of community Goghtan Hakob Poghosyan
65. Head of community Drakhtadzor Gevorg Sargsyan
66. Head of community Tsitsernavank Simon Harutyunyan
67. Head of community Keren Vrezh Harutyunyan
68. Head of community Hakar Garnits Chobanyan
69. Head of community Haykazyan Armen Chomoyan
70. Head of Ghazarapat community Karapet Hakobyan,
71. Head of Moshatagh community Sirak Soghomonyan,
72. Head of Sonasar community Andranik Kyureghyan
73. Head of Tsar community S. Simonyan
74. Head of Getashen community Lavrent Gevorgyan
75. Head of Aknaberd community Hamlet Saylyan
76. Head of Zuar community Sos Chlingaryan
77. Head of Nor Manashid community H. Sargsyan
78. Head of Nor Brajur community Araik Hayrapetyan,
79. Head of Nor Kharkhaput community Mikael Melkonyan
80. Head of Havsatagh community G. Vanyan
81. Head of Dadivank community Davit Sargsyan
82. Head of the Khin Shen community Samvel Sargsyan
83. Head of the Yeghtsaokh community Artak Hakobyan
84. Head of the Metshen community David Davidyan
85. Head of Lisagor community Gagik Nasibyan
86. Head of the Karintak community Ashot Hakobyan
87. Head of the Kirsavan community Samvel Hayiryan
88. Head of Berkadzor community Zarine Mekiyan
89. Head of Khanck community Arnold Abrahamyaner
90. Head of the Ivanyan community Boris Kagramanyan
91. Head of the Zaglik community David Azaryan
92. Head of the Haterk community Vartan Grigoryan
93. GEN Initiative Center
94. "Avre Artsakh" NGO
95. "Partners" Law Firm
96. "MONTE" Military-Patriotic Public Organization
97. "Artsakh Militia" Military-Patriotic Organization
98. "Azat Artsakh" Newspaper
99. "Lusarar" Newspaper
100. "My Right" Civil Movement
101. "Analyticon" Magazine
102. "What, Where, When" Intellectual Club
103. "Artsakh News" Information Agency
104. "Artsakh Reports" Information Agency
105. "Artsakh Speaks" Information Agency

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106. "Daily Artsakh" Information Agency
107. "Artsakhn Aysor" Information Agency
108. "ArtsakhOr" Information Agency
109. "Artsakhpress" Information Agency
110. "Dizak" Information Agency
111. "Luys" Information Agency
112. "News of Artsakh" Information Agency
113. "Serund" Information Agency
114. "Dizak Art" Cultural Public Organization
115. "Power of Thought" Scientific Public Organization
116. "Azgi Akunk" Public Organization
117. "Anel" Public Organization
118. "Artsakhakertum" Public
119. "Askeran Development Center" Public Organization
120. "Vita" Public Organization
121. "In the Name of Hadrut" Public Organization
122. "Military Patriotic Union Faith and Courage" Public Organization
123. "Return to Dizak" Public Organization
124. "Return to Kashatagh" Public Organization
125. "Reborn Homeland" Public Organization
126. "Artsakh Volunteer Movement" Public Organization
127. "Harmony" Public Organization
128. "Stepanakert City" Public Organization
129. "Spiritual Revival" Public Organization
130. "Call of Artsakh" Public Organization
131. "Idea" Public Organization
132. "Institute of People's Diplomacy" Public Organization
133. "Kamq" Public Organization
134. "Root and Branches" Public Organization
135. "Motherhood" Public Organization
136. "Youth Association for Justice" Public Organization
137. "Young Lawyers" Public Organization
138. "The Forcibly Displaced Armenian Population of Shushi" Public Organization
139. "Kachar Scientific Center" Public Organization
140. "National Artsakh" Public Organization
141. "Independent Center for Strategic Research" Public Organization
142. "Eagles of Artsakh" Public Organization
143. "Open Society" Public Organization
144. "Support for Armenians of Artsakh" Public Organization
145. "Generation of Hayk" Public Organization
146. "Development" Public Organization
147. "Union of Refugees" Public Organization
148. "Union of Afghan War Veterans" Public Organization
149. "Union of Women Refugees" Public Organization
150. "Union of Journalists of Artsakh" Public Organization
151. "Union for Animal Protection" Public Organization
152. "Union of Musicians" Public Organization
153. "Union of Reserve Officers of Artsakh" Public Organization
154. "Writers' Union of Artsakh" Public Organization
155. "Union of Relatives of Missing Freedom Fighters" Public Organization

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156. "Union of Relatives of Soldiers Perished and Missing in Action in the Third Artsakh War" Public Organization
157. "Relatives of Perished Soldiers of NKR" Public Organization
158. "Union of Artsakh's Blind" Public Organization
159. "Artists Union of Artsakh" Public Organization
160. "Federation of Trade Unions of NKR" Public Organization
161. "Civil Initiatives Center" Public Organization
162. "Center for Youth Public Research" Public Organization
163. "Eco Artsakh" Public Organization
164. "Homeland of Equal Opportunities" Public Movement
165. "Artsakh Public Television"
166. "Artsakh Cultural Heritage Protection Council" Public Organization
167. "Unified Armenia" Patriotic Public Organization
168. "Our Mountains" Radio
169. "Refugees and International Law" Civil Society Network
170. "Union of Diplomats of Artsakh" Public Initiative
171. ''Tekeyan'' Public Organization
172. "Council of Elders" NGO
173. "Union of those wounded during the Artsakh War" NGO
174. "Third Power Plus" Newspaper
175. "Artsakh writer's unit" NGO
176. "Union of Artisans of Artsakh" NGO
177. "Return to Karvachar" NGO
178. "Deoccupation of Shushi" NGO
179. "Dizak" Newspaper
180. "Women's and Children's Rights Protection" NGO
181. "Artsakh Emphasis" charitable NGO
182. Radio Hay Stepanakert radio station
183. "Artsakh UHA Association" NGO
184. "For the Homeland" NGO
185. NKR Sports Tourism Federation
186. Public organization "National Federation of Traditional Karate-do of Artsakh"
187. NGO "Wushu Kung Fu Federation of NKR"
188. "NKR Basketball Federation"
189. Public organization "NKR Volleyball Federation"
190. Public organization "NKR Handball Federation"
191. Public organization "Table Tennis Federation of the NKR"
192. Public organization "NKR Athletics Federation"
193. NKR NGO "Judo Federation"
194. Public organization "Artsakh Struggle Federation"
195. Public organization "Artsakh Taekwondo Federation"
196. Public organization "Artsakh Gymnastics Federation"
197. Public organization "Artsakh Weightlifting Association"
198. Public organization "Federation of Olympic and Professional Boxing of Artsakh"
199. Public organization "Karate-Do Federation of Artsakh"
200. NGO "National Federation of Sambo and Wrestling Koch"

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201. NPO "Chess Federation"
202. Public organization "NKR Energy Triathlon Federation"
203. Public organization “Oyama Kyokushin Karate-do Federation of Artsakh”
204. Public organization "Muite Federation of Artsakh"
205. Public organization “Federation of Mixed Martial Arts of Artsakh”
206. Public organization "Arm Wrestling Federation of the NKR"
207. OO "Federation of Traditional Kickboxing" NGO
208. Public organization "NKR Football Federation"
209. Public organization "Union of Artsakh Athletes"
210. Public organization "KIFC Artsakh"
211. Public organization “Artsakh Ultimax MMA Association”
212. "Football Club "NPO"
213. Public organization "Association of Martial Arts of the NKR"
214. Public organization "League of Frontline Journalists"

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