

The Rt. Hon. James Claverly, M.P.
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth
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Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH



September 21, 2022

Stop the Armenian Genocide

Dear Foreign Secretary,

I wish you well as you take up the weighty responsibilities of Foreign Secretary at a time of international crisis. Halting the ongoing process of Armenian Genocide is one of the greatest geopolitical and humanitarian challenges you will face at the onset of your term of office.

On 13 September 2022, Azerbaijan, an associate member of NATO and major commercial partner of the UK, brazenly violated the UN Charter by attacking Armenia, bombarding towns and villages in the process. Meanwhile over 100,000 Armenian Christians in the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh continue to be threatened by the armed forces of Azerbaijan. This is the same ultra-nationalistic Azeri-Turkic dictatorship, supported by the UK's NATO ally Turkey, that attacked Nagorno-Karabakh in 2020, displacing tens of thousands of ethnic Armenians, occupying their land and committing well documented atrocity crimes. Prisoners and hostages taken during that military offensive are still held by Azerbaijan, contrary to the stipulations of the ceasefire agreement of December 2020.

These contemporary acts of military violence against Armenia and Armenian Christians are manifestations of a process of genocide that began in earnest with the massacres of Armenians in Ottoman Turkey in the late 19th century. It reached a high point during the Genocide of Anatolian Armenians and other Christian communities in 1915 – 1918. But the process of ethnic and religious cleansing of Armenians did not end then. It continued thereafter in lands claimed by Azeri-Turk ultra-nationalists in the multi-ethnic and religious Caucasus and is operational today.

Among the many massacres of Armenians that took place following the Genocide in Anatolian Turkey was the Maragha massacre in Nagorno Karabakh. It took place thirty years ago on the 10th of April. I highlight this little known atrocity crime because a CSI delegation, led by the Baroness Cox, was then in the vicinity and went to investigate. This is what its members found:

“A village with survivors in a state of shock, their burnt-put homes still smoldering, charred remains of corpses and vertebrae still on the ground, where people had their heads sawn off, and their bodies burnt in front of their families. 45 people had been massacred and 100 were missing”.

This testimony was published in *Ethnic Cleansing in Progress: War in Nagorno Karabakh*, co-authored by the Baroness Cox and with a preface by the late Elena Bonner Sakharov. Appropriate action was not then forthcoming from the Foreign Office, as subsequent confirmation of the massacre was provided by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and others.

The recent Azerbaijani aggression against Armenia shows that this ethnic cleansing is still in progress and is again gaining momentum. It also shows the ineffectiveness of whatever representations have been made to Azerbaijan and Turkey by the UK and its allies and partners, including those in the Minsk Group. It is difficult to escape the conclusion that the geopolitical and economic interests of the UK and its partners in Azerbaijan and Turkey trump genocide prevention.

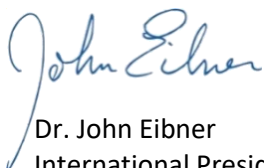
CSI trusts that you will use the considerable influence of your office as Foreign Secretary to press for the implementation of the following measures in the interest of genocide prevention.

- Public condemnation of Azerbaijan's military attack against its sovereign neighbor Armenia.
- The suspension of further military support to Azerbaijan until peace and the normalization of relations between Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkey prevails, and Azerbaijan fulfills its 2020 ceasefire commitment to free all prisoners and hostages as Armenia has done.
- Imposing economic sanctions on the President of the financially opaque Azerbaijani state oil company SOCAL, Roushan Najaf, and other members of its Board of Directors.
- Recognition of the right of self-determination for the people of Nagorno-Karabakh.
- Encouragement of the United States, Russia and regional powers to cooperate for the establishment of peace and stability in the volatile Caucasus.

Such measures will help create conditions for the peaceful coexistence of all the peoples of the region regardless of ethnicity and religion.

It is time to stop the Armenian Genocide process. CSI stands ready, as always, to cooperate with you and the FCDO for the purposes of genocide prevention and the protection of surviving victims.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Eibner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. John Eibner
International President