

Mr. Volker Türk  
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Palais des Nations



September 21, 2022  
CH-1211 Geneva 10

## **Stop the Armenian Genocide**

Dear Mr. Türk,

I wish you well as you take up your duties as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Halting the ongoing process of Armenian Genocide is one of the greatest challenges you will face at the beginning of your term of office.

On 13 September 2022, Azerbaijan 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 Azerbaijan, supported by Turkey, that attacked Nagorno-Karabakh in 2020, displacing tens of thousands of ethnic Armenians, occupying their land and committing well documented atrocity crimes.

These contemporary acts of military violence against Armenia are manifestations of a process of genocide that began in earnest with the massacres of Armenians in Ottoman Turkey in the late 19<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> of April. A CSI delegation 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 myself, with a preface by the late Elena Bonner Sakharov.

The recent Azerbaijani aggression against Armenia shows that this ethnic cleansing is still in progress and is again gaining momentum.

CSI trusts that you will use the considerable influence of your office as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to press within the UN system for implementation of the following measures as part of the UN's genocide prevention mandate:

- Public condemnation of Azerbaijan's military attack against its sovereign neighbor Armenia.
- The suspension of further military support to Azerbaijan until peace prevails, and Azerbaijan releases all prisoners and hostages taken during its 2020 war against Nagorno Karabakh.
- Recognition of the right of self-determination for the people of Nagorno-Karabakh.
- Encouragement of the United States, Russia and regional powers to cooperate in the search for peace, stability and respect for fundamental human rights in the Caucasus.

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

It is time to stop the Armenian Genocide process. CSI stands ready, as always, to cooperate with your office and the Human Rights Council for the purposes of genocide prevention and protection.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. John Eibner  
International President  
CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL (CSI)