



Congressional Statements on Nagorno Karabakh Republic  
April 13, 2016

**Representative Robert Dold (R-IL)**

"Once again we are reminded that Azerbaijan continues to say one thing and do the exact opposite. I join with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in condemning the rhetoric and actions of President Aliyev. Rather than obscure the reality with allusions towards even-handedness, I hope that the Obama administration will continue to work with Nagorno-Karabakh and the OSCE Minsk Group to come to a peaceful resolution where Azerbaijan is held accountable for their actions."

**Representative Pallone (D-NJ)**

"I strongly condemn Azerbaijan's escalation of hostilities against Nagorno Karabakh, and I join the Obama Administration in urging an immediate de-escalation of the conflict. Azerbaijani President Aliyev's threatening rhetoric has consistently alluded to doing away with the 1994 ceasefire and attacking the people of Nagorno Karabakh. President Aliyev continues to defy international calls to reach a negotiated settlement that will ensure a lasting peace in the region. It is unacceptable for Azerbaijan to continue on its current belligerent path, and I urge the Obama Administration and the OSCE Minsk Group to demand accountability on the part of Azerbaijan and continue to work toward implementing proposals that promote peace."

**Representative Gus Bilirakis (R-FL)**

"The escalated hostilities and lives lost in Nagorno Karabakh are another heartbreaking reminder that Azerbaijani violence cannot continue. As a member of the Armenian Caucus, I stand with all Armenians in protection of their basic freedoms and security interests. We must work with all to find a lasting and agreeable solution, and these ongoing attacks only derail the prospects for agreement while reemphasizing the fear we all are seeking to alleviate. These hostilities should cease at once, and our assistance to Azerbaijan should be suspended until the attacks come to an end."

**Representative Judy Chu (D-CA)**

"Since first speaking out for their right of self-determination in 1988, the people of Nagorno-Karabakh have been alternately besieged and attacked by Azerbaijan. Sadly, over the years,

Azerbaijan has resisted efforts to de-escalate the conflict, and this weekend, it turned lethal. The loss of innocent civilian life, particularly reports of a 12-year-old killed in the Marduni region, is heartbreaking, and I hope a settlement can be reached quickly before more lives are lost. I have called on the President to work with both sides in deescalating this conflict, and to suspend aid to Azerbaijan if they continue in their aggression against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh. Violence in response to a peaceful independence movement is unacceptable. I condemn this action and stand with the Armenian people in their calls for actionable steps that will promote and ensure peace.”

**Representative David Cicilline (D-RI)**

“I am deeply troubled by the resurgence of fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh and hope Armenia and Azerbaijan can find a resolution to restore peace. I strongly condemn the use of sniper attacks by the Azerbaijani government, which is in direct violation of the cease-fire agreement and international law, and am appalled by reports that Azerbaijan forces attacked a Red Cross envoy. This continued aggression will only bring unrest and risks jeopardizing a cease-fire agreement that was put in place over 20 years ago. As both Presidents Sarkisian and Aliyev prepare to travel to Russia, I hope Azerbaijan will agree to stop these attacks to defuse the escalating violence and prevent the further loss of life.”

**Representative Jim Costa (D-CA)**

“This latest breach of the ceasefire underscores Azerbaijan’s aversion to peace and stability, and I condemn the attacks against Nagorno Karabakh. Some 20 Armenian soldiers and five civilians have already lost their lives due to the senseless violence. Despite attending meetings in DC with Secretary Kerry and Vice President Biden last week, Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev does not appear committed to the peace process and I question his sincerity in trying to reach a resolution. It is my hope the United States continues to work with the Minsk Group until the Azerbaijan government reverses its pattern of escalating violence against the peaceful people of Nagorno Karabakh and recommits to upholding civil society and rule of law.”

**Congressman Jim Langevin (D-RI)**

“I am deeply troubled by the ongoing conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, which threatens not only the security of the Armenian people, but the security of the region as a whole. This blatant violation of the ceasefire agreement, which resulted in both military and civilian deaths, is not only dangerous; it is reckless. Azerbaijan’s aggressions and rhetoric must be de-escalated immediately so that both parties can come together to honor the ceasefire agreement and work towards the goal of peace in Nagorno-Karabakh.”

**Representative Grace Napolitano (D-CA)**

"I strongly condemn Azerbaijan's most recent aggression against Nagorno Karabakh. Its use of military force has displaced and wounded dozens of innocent Armenians, claiming the lives of 27 members of the Nagorno Karabakh defense forces.

I joined dozens of my Democratic and Republican colleagues in March 2016, calling on President Obama and his administration to work with the two parties in advance of last week's Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, DC to deescalate the ongoing situation. The fact this military assault occurred immediately following the summit is deeply troubling and proves Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev is not committed to a peaceful resolution. The Azerbaijani government must be held accountable for these egregious acts, which are an affront to the people of Nagorno Karabakh exercising their right to self-determination.

Azerbaijan's hostility toward Nagorno Karabakh continues to threaten the safety of innocent civilians and harm the prospect of lasting peace in the region. We must ensure that Azerbaijan does not violate the ceasefire agreement. I will continue to work with my colleagues to provide humanitarian assistance in Nagorno Karabakh and demand the suspension of US military aid to Azerbaijan until its government fully agrees to end cross-border attacks."

**Representative Devin Nunes (R-CA)**

"The clashes in Nagorno-Karabakh risk escalating into a dangerous, wider war. The ceasefire must be scrupulously observed, while Azerbaijan needs to implement widely-supported peacekeeping measures along the line of contact, including a withdrawal of snipers and an expanded role for the OSCE.

**Representative Linda Sanchez (D-CA)**

"I strongly condemn Azerbaijan's aggression against Nagorno Karabakh which has killed many Armenian soldiers and civilians. This escalation of violence risks engulfing the entire region into a long and bloody conflict. I am calling on Azerbaijan to abide by the ceasefire and end hostilities in Nagorno Karabakh."

**Representative Adam Schiff (D-CA)**

"I am deeply disturbed by and condemn this terrible new escalation in Azerbaijan's aggression against Nagorno Karabakh in the form of a significant military assault which killed 18 Armenian soldiers and at least one civilian -- a young boy. That this attack comes just hours after Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev returned from meetings in Washington, D.C. with Vice President Biden and Secretary Kerry demonstrates that the policy of the United States and the Minsk Group is simply not working.

Until Azerbaijan faces strong and meaningful consequences over their policy of escalation and violence and its self-serving refusal to agree to international monitoring of the Line of Contact, there is little chance of resolving the conflict and avoiding further bloodshed. The true victims of this policy are the people of Artsakh who simply want to live free of sniper fire and mortar barrages and to exercise their right of self determination."

**Representative Brad Sherman (D-CA)**

"The Azerbaijani aggression we have seen over the last few days is deeply disappointing. There are a number of news reports indicating that more than 100 Armenians have been killed as a result. Chairman Ed Royce and I urged that Azerbaijan use the opportunity provided by the recent Nuclear Security Summit to advance the peace process.

Instead, it appears that Azerbaijan's President Aliyev launched new attacks against Nagorno-Karabakh. I strongly condemn this aggression and believe that U.S. assistance to Azerbaijan be cut off until it ceases its aggression, renounces violence, and commits to a purely peaceful resolution of the conflict."

**Representative David Valadao (R-CA)**

"I share the deep concern of many of my constituents across the San Joaquin Valley regarding the recent military offensive launched against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh by Azerbaijan. The ceasefire previously agreed to by both parties should be honored to prevent this deadly conflict from escalating any further."

Established in 1972, the Armenian Assembly of America is the largest Washington-based nationwide organization promoting public understanding and awareness of Armenian issues. The Assembly is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt membership organization.