
MM19/23 FURTHER ATTACKS ON ARTSAKH - CALL FOR ASSISTANCE - Mayor, Councillor Sarkis Yedelian OAM**File Number: MYR/07/10/20 - BP23/547**

As I have written in previous Mayoral Minutes, the residents of the area known as Artsakh continue to suffer as a result of attacks by Azerbaijan which recently claimed victory in its ongoing dispute with the indigenous Armenian population.

At its August 2023 meeting, Council resolved to set up a humanitarian appeal to provide aid through the Armenian Relief Society of Australia and contributed \$1,500.00 to the appeal. To date the appeal has raised \$38,500.00.

The Federal Government was also asked to support an immediate end to the blockade of a disputed land corridor which was preventing the population accessing food, medicine and basic necessities.

Attached is a letter received from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in response to the request.

As a result of the defeat of the Armenian forces, thousands of ethnic Armenians are now fleeing the Artsakh region fearing persecution or ethnic cleansing.

In Stepanakert thousands of people are trying to leave for Armenia fearing they will never be able to return home.

The Armenian government said at least 6,650 people had crossed into Armenia, up from about 4,850 people 5 hours earlier.

Whilst it appears that the conflict has now ended, the Azerbaijan victory has increased the need for humanitarian assistance for the displaced population. Thousands of residents of Artsakh are now in fear of their lives and are living without access to basic necessities.

I move that Council call on the Federal Government and Foreign Minister of Australia to condemn the actions of Azerbaijan and to provide humanitarian assistance to the people who have become refugees as a result of the conflict.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- (a) Call on the Federal Government and Foreign Minister of Australia to condemn the actions of Azerbaijan.
- (b) Call on the Federal Government to provide humanitarian assistance to the people who have become refugees as a result of the conflict.

Council, submitted on 26 September 2023.

MM19/23 (continued)

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Letter from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet dated 14 September 2023 regarding Artsakh conflict

Report Prepared By:

Councillor Sarkis Yedelian OAM
Mayor

MM19/23 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ANDREW FISHER BUILDING
ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT
BARTON

Reference: MC23-071571

Councillor Sarkis Yedelian OAM
Mayor
City of Ryde
Locked Bag 2069
NORTH RYDE NSW 1670

Dear Councillor Yedelian

Thank you for your letter of 24 August 2023 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, regarding the humanitarian situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. I have been asked to respond on the Prime Minister's behalf.

The Australian Government is deeply concerned about the humanitarian impacts on the people of Nagorno-Karabakh resulting from access disruptions to the region. Australia remains supportive of the UN Secretary General's call of 2 August 2023 for urgent steps to be taken to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to those in need. We urge all parties to ensure that humanitarian aid is provided to those who require it, without obstruction.

Australia values its ties with both Armenia and Azerbaijan. We are closely monitoring the situation in the South Caucasus and acknowledges the positions of both countries. We continue to relay our views and concerns via diplomatic channels, including our support for international mediation efforts that we hope will result in an agreement that guarantees the rights and security of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Yours sincerely



Ash Collingburn AM DSM
Assistant Secretary, Global Interests
14 September 2023

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