

It has been more than 200 days of Azerbaijan's genocidal and illegal blockade of the Lachin Corridor, the only road connecting Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) to Armenia and the outside world.

Since December 12, 2022, Azerbaijan has blockaded the only land corridor connecting 120,000 indigenous Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia.

Since the war in 2020, our lives have changed drastically and became a nightmare, and living in Nagorno-Karabakh is becoming more and more dangerous.

For a month, Nagorno-Karabakh has been completely cut off from humanitarian access, being literally besieged by Azerbaijan. Since June 15, the intentional and total ban on transportation of food and essential goods by Azerbaijan threatens the lives of 120,000 people of Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijan has also blocked the two-way transportation of patients and medicines by the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross).

The Russian peacekeepers transport cargo for their maintenance by helicopters, while the entire population of Nagorno-Karabakh is under the threat of starvation, and the international actors do not take any steps other than statements.

The Azerbaijani government takes every measure to force us to leave our homes, the land - where our ancestors lived for thousand years. It is very clear that it wants the land of Nagorno-Karabakh without us – its native population.

We now face serious deprivation. Food has become scarce, our patients cannot get medical assistance, we do not get gas, electricity, petrol, and our economy are paralyzed. Our children are deprived of adequate education, are subjected to malnutrition, and do not receive daily dose of basic vitamins. We should also add that due to the malnutrition of pregnant women, the lives of their unborn children are at risk and they may be born with defects or even die before they are born. On July 7, two minors, a three-year-old and a six-year-old child, died due to malnutrition and lack of food in Aghabekalanj village of Martakert region of Artsakh.

Concerning European Council President Charles Michel's note relating to Azerbaijan's willingness to equally provide humanitarian supplies via Aghdam (Akna) we are against receiving humanitarian supplies that way, first of all, because we do not trust the safety of the food that would be transported via Aghdam. We would not be able to use that route to get appropriate medical care. This does not solve the problem of our blockade, we do not have basic freedom of movement, we do not have the opportunity to communicate with our relatives in the Republic of Armenia. It is not a solution to the problem at all, and it is not a solution to the problem of our blockade and communication with the outside world. The legal status of the Lachin corridor is protected by international law, and it cannot be regarded solely as a supply route.

The opening of the Lachin Corridor is important.

Baku insists on integration of local Armenians, while the reality is that its policy towards Armenians is full of hateful and racist propaganda. Azerbaijan wants to keep the issue of our rights and security in the dark, as having no external visibility will help them to carry out ethnic cleansing without facing any consequences. If the current realities continue without the due reaction from the international community, we will obviously end up with ethnic cleansing or genocide.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Urge Azerbaijan to instantly open the Lachin corridor –open the corridor for the free and safe passage, unconditionally, for all the people and vehicles.
2. Locate an International Fact-finding group on the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh to monitor and see, how our rights are being violated.
3. Remove the isolation of the NK people and ensure free access of international organizations and diplomatic missions to be able to monitor the threats to the human rights and human security.

Signatories:

1. “Civic Hub” NGO
2. “Return to Karvachar” NGO
3. “Return to Kashatagh” NGO
4. “Vector” NGO
5. "Center for Support of Mothers of Artsakh" NGO
6. “Center for Support and Development of Women and Children” NGO
7. “Youth Public Research Center” NGO
8. “Education for Future” NGO
9. “To Do” NGO
10. “The Power of the Mind” NGO
11. "HUB Artsakh" NGO