



WESTERN DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական Եկեղեցւոյ Հիւսիսային Ամերիկայի Արեւմտեան Թեմ

HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP HOVNAN DERDERIAN, PRIMATE
ԳԵՐԱՇՆՈՐՀ Տ. ՅՈՎՆԱՆ ԱՐԹԵՊՍ. ՏԵՐՏԵՐԵԱՆ, ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴ

September 30, 2020

The Rev. Murray Finck
Interim Bishop of the Southwest California
Synod of the ELCA
1300 E. Colorado St.
Glendale, CA 91205

My Dear Brother in Christ,

Today I would like to draw your kind attention to the ongoing military aggression perpetrated by Azerbaijan against the peaceful Armenian population of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh) and the Republic of Armenia proper.

There is overwhelming factual evidence that the military actions are instigated and further carried out by Turkey, a NATO member. Furthermore, according to multiple credible media sources, radical Islamic terrorists are being smuggled by Turkey into Azerbaijan.

The ongoing onslaught is a war crime, international terror and a direct violation of human rights.

For us, the Armenian people, the first Christian nation on Earth who suffered the first genocide of the 20th century, it is an existential obligation to safeguard our historic and ancestral homeland, the cradle of civilization.

Thus, as a member of one Ecumenical Body, I would like to ask you to stand with us in solidarity and join us in our struggle to end violence and crime against humanity. Our united witness to the Truth and Justice is the only means to stop the war in the region.

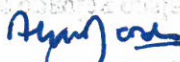
Indeed, we are called by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to be active peacemakers in the world and we hope that together with your strong voice and brotherly support, we can restore the peace in the region.

We expect from our brothers and sister in Christ to spread the word and let the world know about the tragedy that our nation is experiencing today.

Your continuous prayers for the restoration of peace are much needed. We would greatly appreciate if you remember us in your weekly services.

May God continue to bless you and your God-entrusted flock so that you may continue to witness to the Truth and Justice in the world.

With Brotherly Love,


Archbishop Hovnan Derderian
Primate