**A SAMPLE LETTER TO SEND TO YOUR FRIENDS AND OTHERS**

Dear [name],

I write to you regarding the ongoing tragedy and severe humanitarian crisis in Artsakh, where Armenians are once again facing a genocide.

For millennia, Artsakh (also known as Nagorno Karabakh) has been integral part of the Armenian Homeland. In 1921, Artsakh was arbitrarily carved out of Armenia by the Soviet dictator Stalin and placed as an Armenian autonomy within newly-created Soviet Azerbaijan, as part of the USSR. The illegal decision was implemented during the Armenian Genocide, and as part of the Soviet divide-and-conquer strategy in the Caucasus. Artsakh has never been part of independent Azerbaijani state.

In September, 1991, the people of Nagorno Karabakh declared formation of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic (Republic of Artsakh). The procedure took place in a full compliance with applicable legislation and international norms. On December 10, 1991, Artsakh held a referendum, in which 99% of the voters supported the idea of independence from the Soviet Azerbaijan. In response, Azerbaijan launched an all-out aggression against Artsakh. The aggressors, with the help of recruited Islamic extremist mujahedeen fighters from Afghanistan and Chechnya, attacked communities across the young republic, destroyed almost entire civilian and economic infrastructure, committed countless accounts of war crimes against Armenians. That war ended with a ceasefire between Artsakh, Azerbaijan and Armenia in 1994.

In September, 2020, Azerbaijan has launched another brutal aggression against Artsakh. This time, Azerbaijan attacked Armenians with the direct help of Turkey and international terrorist groups from the Middle East. As a result, the aggressors occupied most of the territory of Artsakh.

Since December, 2022, Azerbaijan has been illegally blocking the Lachin Corridor - the only road connecting Artsakh with Armenia and the rest of the world. The autocratic Azerbaijan has completely closed supply of goods and medical products to Artsakh. Dictator Aliyev continues to openly ignore calls from the US Government, other democracies around the world, as well as a corresponding Order by the International Court of Justice to unblock the land corridor. The blockade has already caused an acute humanitarian crisis and severe shortages of food, medications and other essential products.

Artsakh needs support from you, your family and friends in raising awareness about this ongoing crime against humanity. Artsakh needs your support to fight against this humanitarian crisis. I must inform with a heavy heart that people in Artsakh already began to die from continued malnutrition.

In this letter you will also find links to material that contain additional information. Please share this information. Armenian advocacy groups have presented various ways to contact the U.S. government and join your voices with ours in support of Artsakh. I urge you to join these efforts via the websites of the [Armenian Assembly of America](https://www.armenian-assembly.org/) and the [Armenian National Committee](https://anca.org/). It takes only a few seconds [to submit a letter](https://www.armenian-assembly.org/advocacy) to the government officials.

I thank you for your support. Please let me know if you have any questions.

With prayers,
[your name]

[CLICK HERE](https://www.france24.com/en/video/20230731-warnings-of-humanitarian-crisis-in-nagorno-karabakh-after-azerbaijan-shuts-only-land-link) to watch a video about current situation in Artsakh and [read Luis Moreno Ocampo's](https://mcusercontent.com/c4515b703f0e0c3c809d347d5/files/b1fec407-95d9-e733-2783-e8440c40400d/Moreno_Ocampo_Expert_Opinion._.pdf) expert opinion on the situation.

Here are links to a number of other recent articles:

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/kennan-cable-no-81-whats-stake-nagorno-karabakh-us-interests-and-risk-ethnic-cleansing>

<https://jam-news.net/stories-of-people-from-nagorno-karabakh/>

<https://www.vtforeignpolicy.com/2023/08/a-new-armenians-genocide-is-underway-in-upper-karabakh/>

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/14082023-nagarno-karabakh-crisis-reaches-new-heights-aid-attempts-blocked-oped/>

<https://www.newsweek.com/us-diplomacy-failing-armenia-opinion-1819248>

<https://providencemag.com/2023/07/azerbaijans-illegal-blockade-causes-30000-armenian-children-mental-anguish-starvation-trauma/>