



ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA

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Statements in Support of Opening the Vital Road of Artsakh

- On December 13, 2022, Department of State Spokesperson Ned Price stated that the "closure of the Lachin Corridor has severe humanitarian implications and sets back the peace process. We [the U.S.] call on the government of Azerbaijan to restore free movement through the corridor. The way forward is through negotiations."
- On December 13, 2022, a spokesperson for France's Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs said in a statement that France called on Azerbaijan to restore access and supplies to Nagorno-Karabakh, "with due regard for the rights of the population living there." The statement also called on Azerbaijan to stay true to its pledge "in accordance with the trilateral statement of 9 November 2020," in which, "the Republic of Azerbaijan pledged to guarantee the safety of people, vehicles and goods traveling along the Lachin corridor, in both directions."
- On December 13, 2022, the EU called on Azerbaijan, "to ensure freedom and security of movement along the corridor, in line with the trilateral statement of November 9, 2020. Restrictions to such freedom of movement cause significant distress to the local population and create humanitarian concerns."
- On December 14, 2022, Michael Carpenter, U.S. Ambassador to the OSCE stated that "The closure of the Lachin Corridor is a dangerous development that jeopardizes the wellbeing of many people living in Nagorno-Karabakh, especially given reports of a gas cutoff to the region."
- On December 14, 2022, during testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Karen Donfried reiterated State Department Spokesperson Ned Price's earlier statement that "the closure of the Lachin Corridor has severe humanitarian implications and sets back the peace process." Donfried added that "[the US] has called on the government of Azerbaijan to restore free movement throughout the corridor."
- On December 15, 2022, USAID Administrator Samantha Power stated that "the Lachin Corridor must be re-opened immediately - the closure has the potential to cause a significant humanitarian crisis. This corridor is an essential route for the flow of much-needed food and medical supplies that must be allowed to flow freely."
- On January 3, 2023, the U.S. again called for the opening of the Lachin Corridor and the complete restoration of free movement through the Lachin Corridor, via the Department of State Spokesperson Ned Price during a press briefing.
- On January 6, 2023, Michael Carpenter, U.S. Ambassador to the OSCE stated: "The United States remains concerned the Lachin Corridor has now been blocked for over three weeks, creating a grave humanitarian situation. We thank the ICRC for providing critical aid during this time, but call on Azerbaijan and Russia to restore access immediately."
- On January 12, 2023, Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Bob Menendez and Senate Armed Services Chairman Jack Reed sent a letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken "demanding that the Biden administration strengthen efforts to end Azerbaijan's month-long blockade of the Lachin corridor," and "hold Azerbaijan to account for blocking a civilian population's access to food and basic necessities."
- On January 13, USAID Administrator Samantha Power wrote: "Transportation through the Lachin Corridor has been blocked for over a month. Each day commercial traffic and humanitarian assistance cannot flow freely to Nagorno-Karabakh, and the potential for a humanitarian crisis increases. Free movement through the corridor must be restored."

- On January 17, 2023, Michael Carpenter, U.S. Ambassador to the OSCE stated: “The United States, too, is gravely concerned that the Lachin Corridor has now been obstructed for more than 30 days, creating critical shortages of food, medicine, and other supplies in Nagorno-Karabakh. These facts are indisputable. We call on Azerbaijan and Russia to restore unhindered transit immediately in keeping with prior commitments, which clearly include guarantees...for the ‘security of persons, vehicles and cargo moving along the Lachin Corridor in both directions.’ The ongoing disrupted passage of private and commercial traffic on the Lachin road could have severe humanitarian consequences for the people living in Nagorno-Karabakh. We thank the ICRC for providing critical aid and call on Azerbaijan to ensure the individual rights, safety, and well-being of the population living in this area are respected. All OSCE participating States have an obligation to protect the safety of persons on their territory without regard to ethnicity.”
- On January 18, 2023, in a call between Secretary Blinken and Armenian Prime Minister Pashinyan, the following is attributable to Spokesperson Ned Price: Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken spoke today with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. The Secretary expressed deep concern for the worsening humanitarian situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, resulting from the blockage of the Lachin corridor.
- On January 19, 2023, the European Parliament adopted a resolution deploring the “tragic humanitarian consequences of the blockade of the Lachin corridor” and urging Azerbaijan to “respect and implement the trilateral statement of 9 November 2020 and immediately reopen the Lachin corridor to enable free movement and ensure access to essential goods and services, thus guaranteeing security in the region and safeguarding residents’ livelihoods.”
- On January 23, 2023, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken spoke “with Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev to urge an immediate reopening of the Lachin corridor to commercial traffic. He underscored that the risk of a humanitarian crisis in the Lachin corridor undermined prospects for peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The Secretary encouraged President Aliyev to redouble efforts in bilateral peace discussions with Armenia. He also raised human rights concerns in Azerbaijan.”
- On February 7, 2023, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock made the following statement at a joint press conference with Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan: “In Nagorno-Karabakh, there is a shortage of medicines and food, families are separated, students cannot attend schools due to lack of heating, there is no energy supply. It is important to immediately stop blocking the Lachin corridor. Russia and Azerbaijan must fulfill their obligations.”
- On February 10, 2023, France’s Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna and Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed the situation between Armenia and Azerbaijan in a phone conversation and took stock of the efforts underway to “resolve the conflict and to underline the need for an immediate restoration of free movement along the Lachin corridor,” the French foreign ministry said in a read-out of the call, which also addressed other diplomatic issues between France and the U.S.
- On February 22, 2023, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) decided in the case presented by Armenia against Azerbaijan that before the final decision in the case is made, Azerbaijan is obliged, per its obligations under the convention, to take all the measures within its power to ensure the uninterrupted movement of people, vehicles and cargo in both directions of the Lachin Corridor.
- On February 23, 2023, France duly noted the order of 22 February 2023 from the International Court of Justice regarding the situation in the Lachin Corridor. Pending a final decision, the Court – to which the case was referred on the basis of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination – asked Azerbaijan to take all measures at its disposal to ensure the unimpeded movement of persons, vehicles and cargo along the Lachin Corridor in both directions.