

“Oh, Armenian people, your only salvation lies in the power of your unity.”

Yeghishe Charents

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

In the first phase of our fundraiser, during the last two weeks we have collected about **\$40,000** from our parishioners and friends, and about **\$25,000** from our Parish Council and church organizations (as of Oct. 20). 100% of the funds will be transferred to the Artsakh humanitarian relief efforts. Many of our parishioners have also made donations directly to www.himnadram.org, www.armenianwoundedheroes.com, Diocese of the Armenian Church or AGBU. We thank you for your incredible generosity and support for our brothers and sisters in our homeland.

At this time of great need, we are writing to you to ask for your continuous support at a time of great crisis for the Armenian people. We step into the second phase and we launch a **\$50,000 matching campaign** to continue providing humanitarian relief to the brave soldiers fighting the war in Artsakh and the people who have been displaced by the violence and destruction brought by the war. During the match period, **St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church and the Parish Council will match every dollar donated online or by checks up to \$50,000.** 100% of the money raised will be put toward the Hyastan All Armenia Fund's humanitarian relief efforts. Please join us in supporting our brothers and sisters in Artsakh and Armenia by donating today.

Artsakh (also known as Nagorno-Karabakh), a de facto independent territory and historical Armenian land within Azerbaijan with a majority population of ethnic Armenians, is currently being bombed by the military forces of Azerbaijan, backed by Turkey. The Republic of Armenia has mobilized its military and is sending its brave young men to the front lines to fight side-by-side with the soldiers of Artsakh to defend the homeland that Armenians have inhabited for centuries.

This war was started by Azerbaijan on September 27, and it is a battle that Armenians did not want but knew they would someday have to fight. After 24 days of shelling (as of Oct. 20th), shooting, death and destruction, a fragile



ceasefire was negotiated on October 10 and October 17. Both ceasefire agreements were almost immediately violated by Azerbaijan.

Amnesty International has confirmed that the Azeris are dropping cluster bombs on Artsakh and targeting civilians and churches. On October 8th the Azeris bombed the 150 year-old Holy Savior Ghazanchetsots Cathedral, the seat of the Armenian Church's Artsakh diocese. There were no military installations near the cathedral: it was a purely religious site.

While the world is preoccupied with the coronavirus, the United States is focused on domestic politics and Europe is distracted by Brexit negotiations, Azerbaijan, with the express support of the Turkish government, has chosen this time to attack Artsakh, hoping the rest of the world is too consumed with their own issues to pay attention. **Does this story sound familiar?** As Walter Russell Mead

WHY YOU?

At the time of WWI, the world stood by while the Armenians were driven from their homeland and systematically killed in the Genocide. At that time, there was not an Armenian diaspora to help save the Armenians from the Ottoman Empire. We are the diaspora of our grandparent and great grandparents who lived through the atrocities. Ask yourself, **If not I, then who will stand up for the Armenians? Who will stop the ethnic cleansing of yet another Armenian homeland?**

WHY NOW?

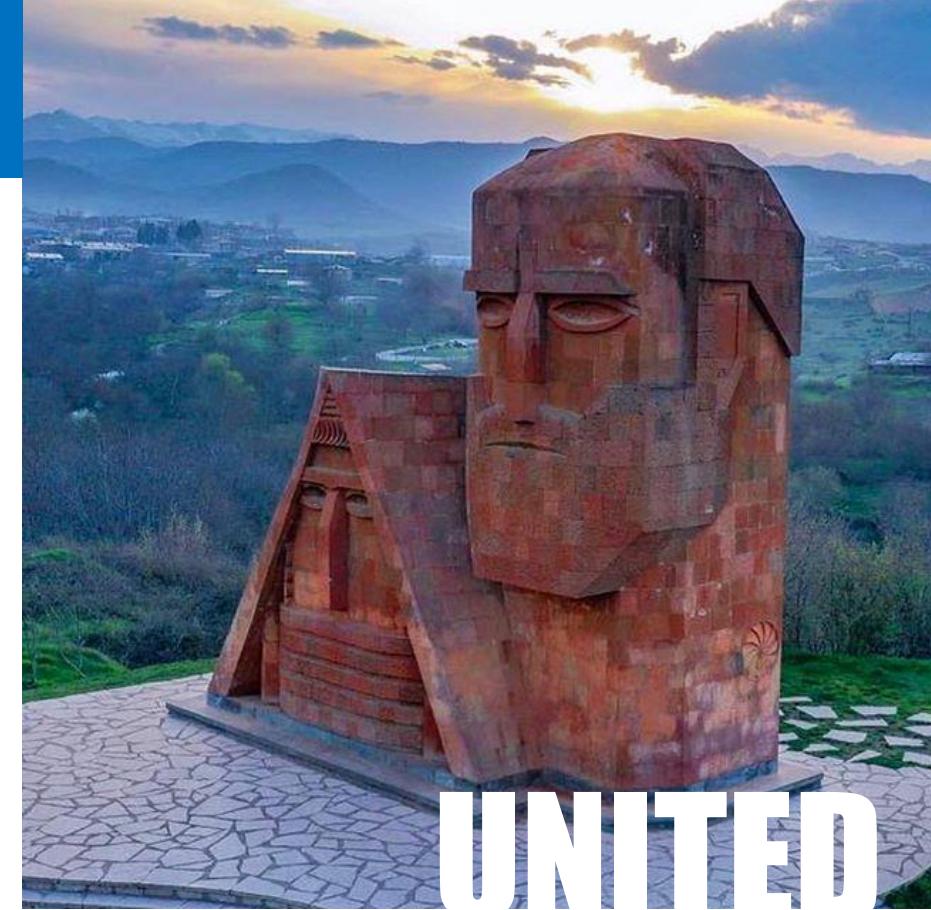
Artsakh is being bombed now. Hundreds have been killed including civilians. The cost of defending Artsakh is estimated to be **\$30,000,000-\$40,000,000** a day and resources are quickly depleted. Funds raised will be used to purchase food and supplies for civilians and life-saving medical equipment for injured soldiers.

HOW MUCH?

Please give now and give generously. Our immediate—and urgent—goal is to raise \$100,000 to support Artsakh and the money will be used exclusively for humanitarian purposes. 100% of the donations made to St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church for Artsakh Relief through October 31, 2020 will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000 and donated directly to the Hyastan All Armenia Fund.

wrote in his recent opinion piece in the *Wall Street Journal*:

“ Armenia will look to the West for help that may not be coming. . . . Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and [Turkish President Recip Tayep] Erdogan have chosen their moment well. Distracted by Covid and the presidential election, and in a mood of withdrawal and retrenchment overseas, the American response will likely be coldblooded. Any European Union action will probably be limited to symbolic sanctions, hand-wringing and the eloquent expression of noble ideas. **”**



UNITED

In Defense for

ARTSAKH



St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church
1131 North Street, White Plains, NY

DONATION FORM

First, Last Name _____

Address _____

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I would like to t donate:

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other _____

Make the check payable to: St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church,

Memo: Artsakh Relief

Make online donations: visit www.stgregorywp.com