

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 319

Rep. Manoogian offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to condemn Azerbaijan's coordinated offensive in
2 Nagorno-Karabakh and denounce Turkish interference in the conflict
3 and to urge the United States Department of State to work with the
4 co-chairs of the Minsk Group and the governments of Armenia,
5 Azerbaijan, and the Republic of Artsakh to achieve a long-lasting
6 and peaceful resolution to this conflict.

7 Whereas, Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as Artsakh, is a
8 territory located in the South Caucasus region that has
9 historically been populated by ethnic Armenians and is governed by
10 the Republic of Artsakh; and

11 Whereas, The people of Artsakh overwhelmingly voted to support
12 independence. On December 10, 1991, despite continued violence
13 against the people of Artsakh, a popular referendum proclaiming an



1 independent republic took place during the disintegration of the
2 Soviet Union. Under the watchful eye of more than 50 international
3 observers, and in full compliance with international standards for
4 a free and fair election, more than 80 percent of eligible voters
5 cast a ballot, and the measure passed with 98 percent in favor. On
6 January 6, 1992, the democratically elected Parliament of Artsakh
7 adopted the Declaration of Independence of the Nagorno-Karabakh
8 Republic; and

9 Whereas, The State of Michigan supported the recognition of
10 the independence of the Republic of Artsakh with the passage of
11 Senate Resolution 99 of 2017; and

12 Whereas, Since September 27, 2020, Azerbaijan has engaged in
13 the most significant military operation along the line of contact
14 with Nagorno-Karabakh since the signing of the cease-fire agreement
15 between Azerbaijan and Armenia in 1994. This attack follows
16 increasingly aggressive rhetoric and destabilizing actions on the
17 part of Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev's government towards
18 Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, including a July 2020 Defense
19 Ministry threat to bomb Armenia's Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant; and

20 Whereas, Azerbaijan's ongoing military offensive, which
21 includes the shelling of Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh's most
22 densely populated city with a population of 55,200, has resulted in
23 the deaths of dozens of civilians and wounded hundreds. The
24 conflict has resulted in the deaths of at least 84 Nagorno-Karabakh
25 service members; and

26 Whereas, Both Armenia and Azerbaijan have declared martial
27 law, mobilized their armed forces, and called up reserve forces;
28 and

29 Whereas, According to multiple news reports, Azerbaijan's



1 military actions in Nagorno-Karabakh may be part of a planned
 2 military operation. The conflict follows joint military exercises
 3 conducted by Turkey and Azerbaijan in August 2020. News accounts
 4 state that in weeks prior to Azerbaijan's military operation,
 5 Turkey recruited mercenaries from Syria and has facilitated their
 6 deployment to Azerbaijan. Additionally, the Armenian Foreign
 7 Ministry claims that Turkey is operating F-16 fighter jets in the
 8 region and shot down an Armenian Su-25 fighter jet in Armenian
 9 airspace, killing the pilot; and

10 Whereas, The conflict has the potential to escalate into proxy
 11 warfare among regional powers, including Turkey, and to further
 12 entrench the conflict and threaten peace and stability in the
 13 region. The United States, France, and Russia serve as co-chairs of
 14 the Minsk Group tasked with finding a peaceful solution to the
 15 Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The co-chairs have urged a cease-fire
 16 and advised the parties to return to substantive negotiations as
 17 soon as possible. The European Union and the United Nations support
 18 a peaceful resolution and immediate cease-fire; now, therefore, be
 19 it

20 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we condemn
 21 Azerbaijan's coordinated offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh and denounce
 22 Turkish interference in the conflict; and be it further

23 Resolved, That we urge the United States Department of State
 24 to work with the co-chairs of the Minsk Group and the governments
 25 of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and the Republic of Artsakh to achieve a
 26 long-lasting and peaceful resolution to this conflict; and be it
 27 further

28 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
 29 President of the United States, the United States Secretary of



1 State, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
2 the United States House of Representatives, and members of the
3 Michigan congressional delegation.

