

Peace and Justice for Nagorno-Karabakh

We fully support the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Azerbaijan within the borders as recognized by the United Nations and the whole international community.

Azerbaijan has received strong international legal support: no less than four resolutions of the UN Security Council demanding unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian troops from the occupied territories. That and the international community has reaffirmed that it does not recognize the acquisition of territory by war. The situation resulting from the illegal use of force can in no way be justified.

We strongly condemn indiscriminate targeting of Azerbaijani civilians and civilian objects along the border of Armenia and Azerbaijan. Illegal activities, as well as illicit settlement in the occupied lands of Azerbaijan must be ceased.

And today, despite the provocations, and the breach of the ceasefire agreement, Azerbaijan is seeking redress through the appropriate legal channels, not rushing into armed response. Conflict is frequently indecisive, and invariably costly in blood as well as resources.

This is the time to activate all possible diplomatic channels, the UN and the European Union should call for an immediate ceasefire, and use every means available at the international level to prevent any further military action. But it is also essential to advance the search for a final settlement of that long-standing conflict. To work for peace through peaceful means, that is one of the tenets of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center (NGIC). Thus, we call on the international community to live up to its previous resolutions, particularly United Nations Security Council Resolutions to restore the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan under international law, ensure withdrawal of Armenian armed forces from all seized lands of Azerbaijan as demanded and hopefully reach a lasting settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

The negotiation process mediated by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs – Russia, France and the United States – has not brought any tangible result for the resolution of conflict. The Co-Chairs based on their mandate stemming from the Helsinki Final Act and the UNSCR should redouble their efforts to ensure meaningful negotiations towards achieving lasting peace.

At a time when all of humanity is fighting a common enemy in the Coronavirus and COVID-19, it is not sensible for humanity to divert our energies and resources to unleash death and destruction on each other. Let us appeal to reason and the rule of law in our pursuit of a peaceful and just settlement to the conflict of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Peace, true peace, is more than the cessation of war. It can only be built on justice and inclusion. That is a fitting task for the EU to assist in bringing about, and it would be an appropriate revival of the spirit of the United Nations on its 75th birthday. So let us work with the international community to overcome the unjust legacies of the past, to address our global challenges and to lay the foundations for better tomorrows.

Signed:

Vaira Vike-Freiberga, Co-Chair NGIC, President of Latvia 1999-2007

Ismail Serageldin, Co-Chair NGIC, Vice-President of the World Bank 1992-2000

H.R.H Prince Turki bin Faisal Al Saud, Chairman of King Faisal Foundation's Center for Research and Islamic Studies

Abdulaziz Altwaijri, former Director General of ISESCO

Shaukat Aziz, Prime Minister of Pakistan 2004-2007

Rashid Alimov, Secretary General of, Shanghai Cooperation Organization 2016-2019

Rosalia Arteago, President of Ecuador 1997

Sali Berisha, President of Albania 1992-1997, Prime Minister 2005-2013

Hikmet Cetin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey 1991-1994

Emil Constantinescu, President of Romania 1996-2000

Mirko Cvetkovic, Prime Minister of Serbia 2008-2012

Franco Frattini, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy 2002-2004; 2008-2011, European Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security 2004-2008

Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, President of Mauritius 2015-2018

Jan Fisher, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic 2009-2010

Ekmeledin Ihsanoglu, Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation 2004-2014

Mladen Ivanic, President of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2014-2018

Dalia Itzik, President of Israel 2007, President of Knesset 2006-2009

Gjorge Ivanov, President of North Macedonia 2009-2019

Ivo Josipovic, President of Croatia 2010-2015

Jadranka Kosor, Prime Minister of Croatia 2009-2011

Aleksander Kwasniewski, President of Poland 1995-2005

Yves Leterme, Prime Minister of Belgium 2008, 2009-2011

Zlatko Lagumdžija, Prime Minister 2001-2002, deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2012-2015

Petru Lucinschi, President of Moldova 1997-2001

Amre Moussa, Secretary General Arab League 2001-2011, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt 1991-2001

Rovshan Muradov, Secretary-General NGIC

Rexhep Meidani, President of Albania 1997-2002

Elnur Aliyev, CEO NGIC

Bujar Nishani, President of Albania 2012-2017

Djoomart Otorbayev, Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan 2014-2015

Elsa Papademetriou, former Vice-President of the Hellenic Parliament

Rosen Plevneliev, President of Bulgaria 2012-2017

Oscar Ribas Reig, Prime Minister of Andorra 1982-84; 1990-94

Petar Stoyanov, President of Bulgaria 1997-2002

Boris Tadic, President of Serbia 2004-2012

Eka Tkelashvili, deputy Prime Minister of Georgia 2010-2012

Filip Vujanovic, President of Montenegro 2003-2018

Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine 2010-2015

Kateryna Yushchenko, First Lady of Ukraine 2010-2015

Valdis Zatlers, President of Latvia 2007-2011