



THE STATEMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER OF ARMENIA ON THE BLOCKING OF THE ONLY ROAD CONNECTING ARTSAKH WITH ARMENIA



13 DECEMBER 2022

On December 12, 2022, at around 10:30 am, alleged Azerbaijani “environmental activists” blocked the only road connecting Artsakh to Armenia, and to the world. The videos depicting the behavior of alleged “activists” as well as the content of their conversations with the Russian peacekeepers reveal the artificial nature of this “protest” or “rally”.

Similar to the case of the disruption of the only gas pipeline from Armenia to Artsakh earlier this year, the goal of blocking the only road connecting Artsakh with the world is very simple: to create a horrendous humanitarian crisis, and thus forcing the people of Artsakh to abandon their homes and homeland. More than 120.000 peaceful older persons, women, children, and men have found themselves trapped, and their rights to life, preservation of health, adequate living, freedom of movement, and other fundamental rights are endangered.

This policy which is being incited and maintained by an ethnic hatred of Armenians (Armenophobia), is directly sanctioned by the Azerbaijani authorities in contradiction with international human rights laws and standards, and the obligations assumed by the Azerbaijani state through the trilateral statement.

I share with you the facts about the situation and call to unequivocally condemn this act of genocidal policy and to put pressure on Azerbaijan aimed at stopping these continuous and flagrant violations of human rights and finding ways to prevent the dangerous humanitarian crises.

Facts as of December 13:

- Road blocked on December 12, 2022, at around 10:30 in the morning until now.
- The mentioned road is the Goris-Stepanakert highway (the Berdzor-Lachin corridor). The road has been blocked near the intersection of Shushi, and Artsakh. This is the only road that connects Armenia to Artsakh.
- Number of peaceful civilians stuck on the road from both sides is 1100 persons, including 271 children, including one child who was transferred from Artsakh to Armenia before December 12 in the ambulance vehicle for urgent medical attention.
- Artsakh is heavily dependent from Armenia in terms of food and medical supply. According to the information from local authorities, the reserves will only suffice for a couple of days.
- The population at risk in Artsakh is 120K.

Links to the videos related to the situation on the ground:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1odzeoVVeD1lu4JIHZKSjHWAbc4y0KItH/view?usp=share_link

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Xc4xKTNYJ4PS2TfFfLzCJgPcFrkfzTR5/view?usp=share_link

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nJVva7WWN6GahrzIZ5EVGO6ftMRnn8DX/view?usp=share_link

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h71FPI0Yx-1IazKVIqsGbMHX8sAL4Em/view?usp=share_link

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