

**A Resolution in Solidarity with the Armenians of Artsakh, and Demanding that UCLA
Stand with Armenian Students and Denounce Armenophobia**

WHEREAS on December 12, 2022, the Azerbaijani autocratic regime initiated a blockade of the Berdzor (Lachin) Corridor;¹ and

WHEREAS the Lachin Corridor represents the only source of vital humanitarian supplies, including food and medicine, to the people of the ethnically Armenian enclave of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh); and

WHEREAS for over **80 days** and counting, Artsakh has been cut off from the outside world, unable to obtain food, fuel, medicine, and other vital supplies; and

WHEREAS gas and electricity running through Azerbaijani-occupied areas have intermittently been shut off, leaving 120,000 civilians without heat in near subzero temperatures;² and

WHEREAS Azerbaijan has also consistently disrupted internet access throughout the region, leaving school children unable to access educational resources, and further isolating civilians from the rest of the world;³ and

WHEREAS the blockade has had deadly consequences, including the death of a patient in critical condition who could not be transported for urgent, life-saving treatment;⁴ and

WHEREAS a humanitarian catastrophe is underway, with countless civilians under intensive care unable to receive necessary treatment outside of Artsakh, where medical supplies are critically low; and

WHEREAS on February 22, 2023 the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, ordered Azerbaijan to “take all measures at its disposal to ensure

¹ [Roadblock cuts off food, fuel and medicine for thousands | openDemocracy](#)

² [Gas Supply To Karabakh ‘Also Blocked By Azerbaijan’ \(azatutyun.am\)](#)

³ [Internet Service Severed in Artsakh; Stepanakert Accuses Baku \(hetq.am\)](#); [Hidden Road Initiative \(@hiddenroadinitiative\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

⁴ [Supplies Dwindle as Karabakh Siege Continues | Institute for War and Peace Reporting \(iwpr.net\)](#)

unimpeded movement of persons, vehicles and cargo along the Lachin Corridor in both directions;”⁵ and

WHEREAS impeding the passage of medical and relief supplies intended for a civilian population constitutes a flagrant violation of the Article 23 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and Article 54(2) of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions; and

WHEREAS intentionally using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare by depriving them of objects indispensable to their survival, including wilfully impeding relief supplies constitutes a war crime under Article 8(2)(b)(xxv) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court; and

WHEREAS on February 1, 2023, the the International Association of Genocide Scholars Executive Board released a statement in which “strongly condemns Azerbaijan’s blockade of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) and the ongoing aggression against the indigenous Armenian population of the region and warns of the risk of genocide against the Armenian population of that entity;”⁶ and

WHEREAS the Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention and the Center for Truth and Justice have joined countless genocide scholars and human rights organizations in denouncing the genocidal blockade and raising awareness about the ethnic cleansing campaign underway;⁷ and

WHEREAS Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have documented the dire humanitarian costs of the ongoing situation and called on Azerbaijan to immediately lift the blockade;⁸ and

WHEREAS Azerbaijan routinely uses military action against Armenians throughout the region, egregiously violating fundamental principles of international law enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, engaging in acts of torture, persecution, cultural erasure, and dehumanization of indigenous populations, constituting crimes against humanity;⁹ and

⁵ [Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination \(Armenia v. Azerbaijan\). Order on Provisional Measures \(Feb. 22, 2023\).](#)

⁶ [International Association of Genocide Scholars Executive and Advisory Boards: Statement Condemning the Azerbaijani Blockade of the Artsakh \(Nagorno-Karabakh\).](#)

⁷ [Red Flag Alert for Genocide - Azerbaijan Update 4 \(lemkinstitute.com\); Azerbaijan’s Blockade of 120,000 Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh and its Humanitarian Crisis \(cftjustice.org\).](#)

⁸ [Hardship in Nagorno-Karabakh as Lifeline Road Remains Blocked | Human Rights Watch; Azerbaijan: Blockade of Lachin corridor putting thousands of lives in peril must be immediately lifted | Amnesty International.](#)

⁹ [Monumental loss: Azerbaijan and 'the worst cultural genocide of the 21st century' | Art and design | The Guardian; Video Shows Azerbaijan Forces Executing Armenian POWs | Human Rights Watch \(hrw.org\); Azerbaijan's 'Ethnic Hatred' Theme Park Draws Ire, Imperils Reconciliation \(rferl.org\).](#)

WHEREAS in September of 2021, Azerbaijan brazenly attacked Armenia, intensively shelling homes in major population centers well into sovereign territory, executing Armenian prisoners of war on Armenian soil, and precipitating an ecological disaster by starting forest fires and targeting reservoirs;¹⁰ and

WHEREAS on October 24, 2022, the International Association of Genocide Scholars Executive Board released a statement which “strongly condemns Azerbaijan’s invasion of the Republic of Armenia and the ongoing aggression against the Armenian people in the Republic and in Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh) and expresses concern about the risk of genocide against the Armenian population of that entity”;¹¹ and

WHEREAS the dictator of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, has frequently made statements dehumanizing and vilifying Armenians, making his genocidal intentions abundantly clear;¹² and

WHEREAS Armenians have historically been subjected to pogroms, ethnic cleansing, and genocide at the hands of Azerbaijan and its close ally Turkey;¹³ and

WHEREAS Azerbaijan’s pattern of aggression and contempt for human rights has been denounced by high-ranking US and world officials, including former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and countless members of Congress and political leaders; and

WHEREAS local and national leaders worldwide have called on Azerbaijan to end the blockade and halt the “unfolding humanitarian catastrophe”;¹⁴ and

WHEREAS democracy and human rights worldwide are at grave risk, as imperialist authoritarian states like Azerbaijan have routinely subjected innocent civilians to aggression, isolation, and oppression;¹⁵ and

WHEREAS American universities have long been centers of discourse which uphold and strengthen the ideals of democracy, self-determination, and human rights; and

¹⁰ [Explainer | What happened in Armenia and Azerbaijan on 13–14 September? \(oc-media.org\)](#); [Fire breaks out in forests of Armenia’s Jermuk as a result of Azerbaijani shooting \(iravaban.net\)](#); [At least 7 identified PoWs captured by Azerbaijan in flagrant violation of Geneva Conventions | ARMENPRESS Armenian News Agency](#).

¹¹ [International Association of Genocide Scholars Executive Board, Statement on Azerbaijani Aggression Against the Republic of Armenia and the Indigenous Armenians of the South Caucasus.](#)

¹² [Ilham Aliyev on Twitter: "Armenia is not even a colony, it is not even worthy of being a servant." / Twitter](#) ; [Listen to the Words of Dictators, Don’t Say We Didn’t Tell You - EVN Report](#)

¹³ [32 years ago on this day, Azerbaijan's state-sponsored massacre of Armenians began in Baku | ARMENPRESS Armenian News Agency](#); [Statement Commemorating the 1988 Sumgait Pogroms Against the Armenian Community | Congressman Brad Sherman \(house.gov\).](#)

¹⁴ [Bass, Krekorian Urge Biden to Take Action on ‘Russian/Azeri’ Blockade of Artsakh – Asbarez.com](#); [ANCA joins Congressional leaders, coalition partners at Capitol Hill press conference condemning Azerbaijan’s blockade of Artsakh \(armenianweekly.com\).](#)

¹⁵ [Azerbaijan: Freedom in the World 2022 Country Report | Freedom House](#)

WHEREAS UCLA, as an institution, purports to stand for the “betterment of our global society,” “freedom from intolerance,” equity, and diversity,¹⁶ and

WHEREAS Armenian students are an integral part of the UCLA community, whose voices have long been ignored and marginalized; and

WHEREAS Armenians in Los Angeles have been a constant target of hate speech and hate crimes, including a recent incident in which an Armenian solidarity march location was scattered with flyers threatening to “wipe Armenia off the map”;¹⁷ and

WHEREAS Armenian Bruins have been the target of Armenophobic intimidation campaigns aimed at terrorizing and victimizing the community, which have led to official inquiries by the UCLA Administration (which unfortunately have not led to any concrete steps aimed at protecting the community from further harassment and prejudice).

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council stands in solidarity with the Armenian community at UCLA and abroad in denouncing Armenophobia in all its forms, and affirms that the fight for human rights must continue; and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council strongly condemns discrimination on the basis of ethnic identity, and any and all attempts at ethnic cleansing and military aggression; and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council urges the UCLA Administration to expeditiously offer additional CAPS counseling services for Armenian students in light of this unfolding crisis; and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council urges the UCLA Administration to take concrete steps to prevent Armenophobic incidents on and outside campus, including holding town halls addressing the issue and educating the student body about anti-Armenian rhetoric and action; and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, the Undergraduate Student Association Council urges the UCLA Administration to send a mass email to all students, faculty, staff, and administrators that (1) acknowledges the situation in Artsakh and takes a stance of solidarity with Armenians in the UCLA community; (2) educates the campus community on the situation in Artsakh, (3) provides resources to those affected by the events; (4) and affirms support of the principle of self-determination for the people of Artsakh; and

¹⁶ [Our Vision, Mission, Principles and Values Statement | UCLA](#)

¹⁷ [Hateful Flyers Aimed at Armenians Appear in Beverly Hills \(lamag.com\)](#)

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council (1) declares the blockade of Artsakh to be an urgent humanitarian crisis that requires immediate intervention; (2) recognizes the fight for self-determination and democracy to be wholly aligned with UCLA priorities and values; (3) and thus demands that the UCLA Administration illuminate Royce Hall in consultation with the Armenian student community.