



**FIGHT GENOCIDE
DO NOT STAND IDLY BY**
JWW.org

Jewish Leaders in Support of Artsakh

We are a group of Jewish leaders and organizations bringing our voices together in support of the Armenian people, and against the brutal attacks taking place against them. Weeks ago, a small region between Armenia and Azerbaijan called Artsakh (also Nagorno Karabakh) broke out in violence when Azerbaijan launched an attack by shelling innocent civilian populations throughout Stepanakert, the capital city of Artsakh, and surrounding areas. The Turkish government is abetting Azerbaijan in its aggression by sending arms and mercenaries and F-16 aircraft. This violence is now endangering civilians who fear a continued brutal conflict. Regional conflicts can often get lost in the din of constantly breaking news, and that is what Azerbaijan is hoping will happen, but this violence demands our attention.

Los Angeles is home to the second-largest Jewish community in the U.S just as it is home to the second-largest Armenian community in the world. Our shared history of genocide, trauma, and diaspora mirrors our shared will to thrive in the face of oppression. Today, there are an estimated 14 million Jews and about 11 million Armenians worldwide. We each make up about 1% of the world population, have been threatened by genocide, and can point to a cultural homeland under constant conflict.

Some have called this a civil war, but we know better. As the Azeri military bomb and shell civilians in Artsakh and Turkey continues to send arms and mercenaries, we see this violence is a continuation of the hatred and atrocious crimes that Turkey committed against the Armenian people over 100 years ago. In 1915, Turkey sought to eliminate Armenians in their entirety. Two decades later Hitler, in his push to cleanse the Earth of Jews, looked at the Armenian genocide as inspiration to kill 12 million. The President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, has promised to fight until the land of Artsakh is in his possession. In July, as tension escalated in the region, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan promised, "We will continue to fulfill this mission, which our grandfathers have carried out for centuries, in the Caucasian."

As Jewish clergy, leaders, and organizations, we believe that to stand with our Armenian neighbors we must condemn these atrocities, raise awareness on our own, and refuse to stand by while this violence takes place. In 2007, Jewish World Watch co-founder Rabbi Harold Schulweis, recognizing the 92nd Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide said, "Judaism is the particular language through which humanity is served. The Jewish language of values begins at home but does and ought not to end at home... Memory is an essential ingredient to develop moral sensibility. Amnesia of the past slides into amnesia of the future. To deny yesterday is to forget tomorrow... It is an insult to yesterday's victims and today's." We will not deny the atrocities of yesterday, not turn our backs on those that continue to be perpetrated.

Now 105 years after the Armenian Genocide, the United States administration is failing to recognize how these current atrocities are tied to those of the past. As Jewish leaders, we must be a moral compass to call out intentions of extreme violence and brutality of an ethnic minority at the hands of state actors. We stand together with the Armenian people demanding an end to aggression from Azerbaijan and Turkey.

Serena Oberstein, *Executive Director,
Jewish World Watch*

Janice Kamenir-Reznik, *Co-Founder
Jewish World Watch*

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30th District*

Hon. Adam Schiff, *U.S. Congressman,
28th District*

Hon. Robert M. Hertzberg, *State Senate
Majority Leader, 18th District*

Hon. Ben Allen, *State Senator, 26th District*
Hon. Henry Stern, *State Senator,
27th District*

Hon. Jesse Gabriel, *Assembly Member,
45th District*

Hon. Laura Friedman, *Assemblymember,
43rd District*

Hon. Richard Bloom, *Assemblymember,
District 50*

Hon. Mike Feuer, *Los Angeles City Attorney*

Hon. Ron Galperin, *L.A. City Controller*

Hon. Bob Blumenfeld, *L.A. City
Councilmember*

Hon. Paul Koretz, *L.A. City
Councilmember*

Hon. Zev Yaroslavsky, *L.A. County
Supervisor (Ret.)*

Hon. Scott Mark Schmerelson,
LAUSD Board of Education

Hon. Nick Melvoin, *LAUSD Board
of Education*

Hon. Jackie Goldberg, *Vice President,
LAUSD Board of Education*

Ori S. Blumenfeld, *Chair and Commissioner,
Beverly Hills Human Relations Commission*

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Rabbi Alex Kress

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Rabbi Daniel Sher

Rabbi Sarah Hronsky

Rabbi Barry Lutz

Rabbi Ahud Sela

Rabbi Richard Camras

Rabbi Leonard Zev Muroff

Rabbi Sharon Brous

Rabbi Paul Kipnes

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and Arts Policy Advisor*

Adam Sieff, *Voting Rights Counsel*

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**Title and organization are for informational purposes only.*