

GENOCIDE IS ABOUT TO UNFOLD IN ARTSAKH, AND THE WEST HAS SECURED A FRONT-ROW SEAT

Posted on January 10, 2023 by Keghart



Category: [Opinions](#)



By [Karnig Kerkonian](#) Esq., [CounterCurrents.org](#), 31 December 2022

For seventeen days, Azerbaijani special forces and military personnel—[masquerading as "environmentalists"](#)—have blocked the only road connecting Artsakh to Armenia. They have effectively severed the only lifeline the Artsakh Armenians have to the outside world—a lifeline guaranteed by the [Trilateral Statement](#) of November 10, 2020. With 120,000 Artsakh Armenians now completely encircled and isolated, Azerbaijan is poised to rid itself of the entire Armenian population this holiday season, and it will try to do so while Europe sips hot chocolate and watches.

Frankly, it is rare to have the opportunity to witness mass atrocity as it unfolds, but social media and Azerbaijan's impunity have given the West an opportunity to watch the ongoing travesty on their iPhones. Azerbaijani sources excitedly publish their atrocities against Armenians online. In fact, Azerbaijan has proudly telegraphed its intentions to ethnically cleanse Artsakh of Armenians—and the lead-up has been quite entertaining, at least for the sadists.

The movie trailers promise a rather captivating show. An [Armenian woman in Azerbaijani captivity, her eyes gouged out](#), her finger severed and shoved into her mouth, her empty eye sockets plugged with stones, hate speech carved into her bare, exposed chest. A video [showing an elderly Armenian man](#) in Artsakh, squirming on his back in the grass and weeds as an Azerbaijani soldier mercilessly continues to saw off his head with a dagger. Armenian POWs brought to their knees, tied and bound like animals. [Azeri soldiers](#), in sickening euphoria, unloading bullet after bullet after bullet into the heads and backs of young Armenian boys. Yet, Azerbaijan assures the West that it is looking for peace and "coexistence".

Independent observers, however, tell quite a different story. The [International Association of Genocide Scholars](#) has proclaimed that "significant genocide risk factors exist in the Nagorno-Karabakh situation concerning the Armenian population." [Genocide Watch](#) has raised the genocide threat level facing Artsakh Armenians beyond the "dehumanization" stage and even the "preparation" stage into the "persecution" and "denial" stages. Indeed, the former Armenian Human Rights Defender, [Arman Tatoyan, along with the Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention](#) have warned that Azerbaijan's "actions are part of a larger genocidal pattern, demonstrating Azerbaijan's Armenophobia and genocidal intent the eradication of Armenia, Artsakh, and the Armenians."

Azerbaijan demands that Artsakh Armenians be subjected to Azerbaijani authority—against their will. This is quite the cocktail: dictatorship, subjugation and genocide. But the West need remember that, after the Holocaust, it rewrote the book on watching dictators round up and deliver humans to their slaughter. Let's be clear: "coexistence" under Azerbaijani authority is not only an utterly ridiculous proposition; it is patently inhumane, intellectually vapid—and, frankly, impermissible. We would never imagine subjecting a population of 120,000 Jews today to the authority of a rabid Nazi regime—or any Nazi regime, for that matter.

But, for the Armenians, let's go with "coexistence". After all, Azerbaijan is doing a rather bang-up

job [laundering sanctioned Russian gas through Baku](#) to help Europe evade sanctions and stay warm for the winter. Only the French President has stated that he is not willing to trade winter warmth for the lives of the Armenian people. The rest of Europe seems to be just fine trading some dead Armenians for thick wool socks, a gas fireplace and some hygge.

And make no mistake: the Azerbaijani peace agenda has no credible basis—Azerbaijan has violated every single ceasefire since 2020, and its hereditary dictator (who, incidentally, sports a [mustache curiously similar to Hitler's](#)) has [openly admitted](#) that he launched the 2020 war to bring an end to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through force. Peace agendas usually involve negotiations—not summary executions, medieval beheadings, and open promises by a dictator to drive Armenians out ["like dogs"](#). But then again, as long as the Europeans are toasty and warm, Azerbaijan appears free to starve and then ethnically cleanse the Artsakh Armenians.

There is a history of this too—and I am not even speaking of the Armenian Genocide (in which the Azerbaijanis, again with the help of their Turkish brothers, gladly participated). Azerbaijan's march toward ethnic cleansing and genocide is blindingly clear in our own lifetimes. In response to peaceful demonstrations in Artsakh for unification with Armenia, Azerbaijan launched pogroms and massacres of Armenians in [Sumgait](#), [Kirovabad](#), and other cities in the late 1980s. Since then, Azerbaijan has only further institutionalized its Armenophobia, breeding and curating hatred toward Armenians at every turn.

More recently, Azerbaijan has offered its viewers a slew of genocide party favors: a [stamp](#) issued by Azerbaijan displays an exterminator in a Hazmat suit "exterminating" Artsakh; a [military trophy park](#) showcasing the helmets of fallen soldiers, gruesome mannequins of Armenians for children to mock and degrade; President Erdogan of Turkey [praising Nuri Pasha](#), of Armenian Genocide era fame, at a military parade in Baku. Frankly, it is unclear what else Baku has to do to telegraph to the world its intention to eliminate the Artsakh Armenians.

The smell of genocide wafts unmistakably in the air. Just a year ago, the International Court of Justice itself indicated [provisional measures](#) ordering Azerbaijan to "take all necessary measures to prevent the incitement and promotion of racial hatred and discrimination, including by its officials and public institutions, targeted at persons of Armenian national or ethnic origin." The case against Azerbaijan was brought under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination—a treaty in place as a stop-gap measure to prevent (you guessed it) genocide. Of course, it has not stopped Azerbaijan from targeting the Artsakh Armenians or, for that matter, even [claiming the capital of Armenia](#) as its own. You really can't make this up.

But back to the blockade. No consignments of food or medicine can now reach Artsakh, and patients cannot be transferred to Armenia for life-saving treatment. Azerbaijan, at one point, even deliberately cut off the gas supply to Artsakh, subjecting the isolated population to subzero winter temperatures. As a result of this cruelty, schools, kindergartens, and hospitals were unable to be

heated. Two weeks on, the food shelves are empty, the medicine cabinets are bare, and families are separated.

More than [270 children](#) were left stranded on a road, meters from where civilian-clad Azerbaijani special forces [kill peace pigeons](#) and flash hand signs pledging allegiance to the “Grey Wolves”—an [ultra-fascist hate organization](#) banned in several countries.

There is no question a genocide is looming in Artsakh. The West, cozy with Russian gas laundered through Azerbaijan, can't find that voice to condemn Azerbaijan or even call for humanitarian intervention. Europe has secured itself a front-row seat for this human catastrophe; now, let's see if it has the stomach to watch it unfold.

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This [article](#) was originally published in ZARTONK Media.

Image credit: Hrayr Badalyan

Comments



N.P. – 2023-01-22 19:29:35

I am sorry I'm unable to answer your question about Georgia but I'm sure an analyst from Armenia would. After the EU's Ursula von der Leyen's announcement that Aliev was "Europe's reliable partner," from what I understand, since Aliev's European deal, apparently a large amount of gas has been negotiated by Azerbaijan to be bought from Russia supposedly to re-sell to Europe, since Azerbaijan doesn't have a great amount of gas.



Vrej M – 2023-01-21 17:50:39

To N.P. Well, there is this claim that Russia sells petrol to Azerbaijan and Azerbaijan sends it through the pipeline through Georgia and then it reaches Turkey. It is a claim. Is there something to support that claim? Did the amount going through the pipeline suddenly go up?



Vard Virabyan – 2023-01-19 11:24:53

En temps qu'arménienne je demande que ça soit arrêté la crime d'Azerbaidjan contre Artsakh, c'est une crime contre humanité, les bombardement, la blocade, les tueries. Combien de vie innocente, combien de péril?



N.P. - 2023-01-18 12:35:19

A really well written almost comprehensive article about the situation in Armenia & Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabagh) and the blockade of the Berdsor (Lachin corridor) by the so called Azeri "environmentalists" and the so called Russian "peacekeepers." The dark irony suits the double standards and hypocrisy of the so called Western or European values. However, there is a gaping omission in the very negative role that Russia - the so called "strategic partner" of Armenia - has played and continues to play in the region. It is clear by now for most people that Russia has betrayed Armenia, holding Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh to ransom, in order to gain leverage with Azerbaijan/Turkey, as well as in order to pry away Turkey from the West. Mr Kerkonian, could you please use your excellent writing abilities for another article in an equally ironic vein to assess the disgraceful and deadly role of Russia vis-a-vis Armenia, mentioning the fact that Mr. Putin considers Russia to be a Tataro-Slavic nation, mentioning the self-congratulatory comment that Mr Shoigu their Defense Minister made, after the 44 day war in 2020, about their "successful operation" against Armenia and Artsakh and lastly the Kremlin's ambition to recreate the Russian Empire! PS, re. Vrej M's comment's last two lines, how would Russia bypass Western sanctions if the Azeri pipelines were blown up, since they would be using them to sell their gas to Europe via Turkey? How would that be in Russia's interest?



Tavit - 2023-01-17 14:44:14

If the West does not act now, watch Russia capture Armenia TOTALLY and thereby shut out the West from the region for the foreseeable future. Traitorous Russia can then do what it does best: Sell Armenia to the genocidists: Turkey and Azerbaijan.

**Vrej M** - 2023-01-14 01:27:21

In order to stop a genocide, you would have to send an army and no country is willing to weaken itself to help another country. Sending an army means losing soldiers and losing weapons. It is very costly. The country that does this, weakens itself. Also, why would they help foreigners? When the USA sent soldiers to Iraq to deal with Saddam Hussein, it reported about atrocities committed against the kurds. It was everywhere in the news. The reality is that the kurds were being used as a "moral reason" to remove Saddam Hussein. The USA has no moral intentions. They were just after their own interests: the petrol. As for invading Afghanistan, they did not go to help the afghans. They were there bc the taliban poses a security threat to the USA and friends. The Vietnam and Korean wars were about the USA stopping its enemies, the commies. They were not there to help people. On the news, I see Japan complaining about North Korea and China. However, I don't think there are any resources for the USA in Japan. The USA is there bc of Taiwan, which has TSMC, a major chip manufacturer. The USA is ready to defend Taiwan against China for that reason alone. On the news, they talk about defending democracy but the reality is that the USA does not care about democracy. After all, they are ok with Saudi Arabia and their horrendous human rights record. They (USA) were ok with Saddam Hussein until he decided to stop selling petrol to the USA. That was a major mistake for Saddam Hussein, He should have sold the petrol to the USA and he could have continued on with his love of killing kurds and it would have appeared on the news once. Azerbaijan (and Turkey) sells petrol to the USA and friends. As long as they continue to sell, this is their ticket to a genocide. A genocide will take place in Artsakh. It will appear in the news once and it will be forgotten. The turks have not started yet since they are afraid the USA and friends will notice and place sanctions. I'm very sure they won't place sanctions. If Armenians had blown the petrol pipeline, it is highly likely that the USA would give the go ahead for Turkey to bomb Armenia. It is highly unlikely that they (USA) would do the job themselves, like they did to Iraq. However, would Russia defend Armenia? Perhaps, since Armenia would be doing Russia a favor by blowing up the pipeline.

**BN** - 2023-01-11 12:54:40

I think the author of this article intends for his audience to recognize the hypocrisy of so-called humanitarianism. While the US sees fit to intervene in Ukraine where Russia wishes to maintain its sphere of influence, the US chooses to sit by and watch Russia call the shots with Armenia/Artsakh.



Arusyak Karapetyan - 2023-01-10 12:20:33

It is funny enough that the West gets the blame while Russia is 100% responsible for the genocide that is taking place in Artsakh!! Maybe ask the Russian Army to stay there another 2 years and let's see how far we will go as people! Good luck to all Armenians under the Russian boots!!