



Plenary sitting

B9-0400/2023

2.10.2023

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission

pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh after Azerbaijan's attack and continuing threats against Armenia

(2023/2879(RSP))

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on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

B9-0400/2023

European Parliament resolution on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh after Azerbaijan's attack and continuing threats against Armenia (2023/2879(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Azerbaijan and Armenia,
 - having regard to the statement by the High Representative on developments in Nagorno-Karabakh of 21 September 2023,
 - having regard to the joint statement by the Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Chair of the Delegation for relations with the South Caucasus, and the European Parliament's Standing Rapporteurs on Armenia and Azerbaijan on Azerbaijan's attack on Nagorno-Karabakh of 19 September 2023,
 - having regard to UN Security Council: Final Report of the Commission of Experts established Pursuant to Security Council Resolution 780 of 1992,
 - having regard to the 1991 Almaty Declaration,
 - having regard to the International Court of Justice Orders of February and July 2023,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas three years after the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War, Azerbaijan once again opened the attack on Nagorno-Karabakh on 19 September 2023 in what it labelled an 'anti-terrorist operation';
- B. whereas according to Armenian sources, at least 200 people were killed and more than 400 were injured;
- C. whereas a ceasefire was declared following mediation by the Russian peacekeeping contingent in the region, after which the de facto leadership agreed to laying down their arms and start talks on Nagorno-Karabakh's 'reintegration' into Azerbaijan;
- D. whereas the de facto leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh has signed a decree to dissolve the entity by 1 January 2024;
- E. whereas most of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh has fled to Armenia fearing living conditions under Azerbaijani rule;
- F. whereas ethnic cleansing is defined by the United Nations Security Council as rendering an area ethnically homogeneous by using force or intimidation to remove from a given area persons of another ethnic or religious group, which is contrary to international law;
- G. whereas while Azerbaijani authorities are now claiming that people's rights and security will be protected in Nagorno-Karabakh, from December through mid-September,

Azerbaijani authorities persistently denied the population in Nagorno-Karabakh their right to food and healthcare and to freedom of movement;

- H. whereas the Azerbaijani authorities have announced the registration of all Armenian residents of Nagorno-Karabakh;
- I. whereas three decades of diplomacy and peacebuilding efforts, by the OSCE, the EU and other international actors failed to deter Azerbaijan's use of military force;
1. Strongly condemns Azerbaijan's attack against Nagorno-Karabakh and its decision to once again pursue a path of violence and suffering to forcibly establish its desired reality with complete disregard for human life and international law;
 2. Stresses that Azerbaijan's military campaign against Nagorno-Karabakh on 19 September has led to an immediate exodus of ethnic Armenians to Armenia, which is equal to ethnic cleansing as defined by the UN Security Council and as such contrary to international law;
 3. Urges Azerbaijan to immediately allow entry to Nagorno-Karabakh, including through a full re-opening of the Lachin corridor in line with the International Court of Justice Orders of February and July 2023, for the United Nations and other humanitarian actors to conduct a humanitarian needs assessment mission as well as to start monitoring the humanitarian situation on the ground;
 4. Stresses that Azerbaijan is required under international law to ensure urgent human rights protections in Nagorno-Karabakh; demands that Azerbaijan provides clear human rights assurances to the ethnic Armenian population who remain and to those who might contemplate returning, especially given Azerbaijan's disastrous overall human rights record; further demands the Azerbaijan allows international monitoring in a multilateral setting of the reintegration process as well as the governance and policing arrangements it is planning to introduce to the area;
 5. Underlines that while civilians are currently leaving Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan is obligated to allow them to return as the right to return to one's home is a fundamental precept of international human rights law;
 6. Request the European Commission and Council to put substantial pressure on the Azerbaijani authorities demanding to immediately release and repatriate all the former Nagorno-Karabakh officials, including former state minister of Nagorno-Karabakh Ruben Vardanyan and all the others who were abducted and illegally arrested before and after 20 September 2023;
 7. Stresses that this latest episode of Azerbaijani military aggression epitomises how the EU's two-faced approach towards some autocratic regimes, where it criticises their disregard of human rights and peaceful diplomacy one day and announces unconditional energy deals with them the next, undermines any influence the EU wishes to have in deterring military action or encouraging basic democratisation in these countries;
 8. Regrets the slow response by the EU institutions, with the High Representative only releasing a statement two days after Azerbaijan initiated its attack against Nagorno-

Karabakh;

9. Insists that the military action by Azerbaijan and consequent forced displacement of the civilian population of Nagorno-Karabakh through military intimidation will be met with a strong response by the EU;
10. Calls on the Commission to immediately retract plans for intensifying the EU's energy trade relations with Azerbaijan as announced last year by President von der Leyen and move to fully eliminate the EU's dependency on autocratic regimes in meeting its energy needs;
11. Invites the Commission further to present an overall reassessment of the EU's relations with Azerbaijan and stresses that the Commission should clearly communicate to Azerbaijan what further consequences, including targeted sanctions against the perpetrators of the aggression, the authorities will risk in case of additional military steps;
12. Invites the Commission to urgently reassess the EU's diplomatic and security architecture and the geopolitical configurations in the wider region of the South Caucasus in light of the new facts on the ground and the interests of countries like Russia, Türkiye and Iran, but also to develop a strategy in response to the growing trend of autocratic regimes pushing aside diplomatic efforts in favour of violent military force;
13. Demands the suspension of the visa facilitation agreement with Azerbaijan;
14. Calls on the Commission and the Council to appropriately strengthen the resources and mandate of the European Union CSDP Mission in Armenia to observe and report on the security situation along the Armenian side of the international border with Azerbaijan;
15. Condemns the Russian peacekeeping contingent for failing to deescalate the situation on the ground prior to Azerbaijan's attack on 19 September and calls for an independent investigation into its role in enabling the violence;
16. Invites the European Commission and Council to engage at the UN General Assembly and UN Security Council in pursuing the establishment of a UN peacekeeping mission in Nagorno-Karabakh and along the international border between Armenia and Azerbaijan in lieu of the unilateral Russian peacekeeping contingent;
17. Warns that Azerbaijan will now likely be emboldened by the lack of serious efforts of deterrence by the international community to continue building on its military maximalist approach to pursue its interests pertaining to its connection to Nakhchivan through the southern part of Armenia and the un-demarcated sections of its international border with Armenia;
18. Urges Azerbaijan to reaffirm its unequivocal commitment to the territorial integrity of Armenia, in line with the 1991 Almaty Declaration;
19. Urges the Commission, the Member States, the United Nations and other international partners to proactively engage with all sides to prevent any further bloodshed in the

region and insist that Azerbaijan returns to diplomacy and multilateralism to resolve territorial disagreements;

20. Calls for the resumption of negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan on all pending issues as soon as possible, in view of the conclusion of a peace treaty; urges the Commission and Council to ensure the EU's ability to credibly and effectively support such negotiations if one or both sides is interested in such assistance;
21. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to provide Armenia with immediate humanitarian assistance, including accommodation, food and medical care, for the tens of thousands of displaced people from Nagorno-Karabakh who now had to flee their homes after months of suffering under Azerbaijan's blockade;
22. Stresses the need for the EU to step up its support for Armenia in its democratic reform process and efforts to strengthen its resilience in order prevent any domestic destabilisation;
23. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the EEAS, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, to the President, Prime Minister and Parliament of Armenia and to the President, Government and Parliament of Azerbaijan.