



Genocide Warning: Azerbaijan's Planned Invasion of Armenia October 2023 By Ani Tonoyan

For over 2000 years, Armenians have [inhabited](#) Syunik in southern Armenia. Now, Azerbaijan is [claiming](#) this region as its historical land. Azerbaijan [delegitimized](#) the Armenian historical and legal claim to Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh). It is now using the same [tactics](#) on Armenia proper. In recent years, the irredentist political concept of "Western Azerbaijan" has emerged, which is now turning into calculated military [action](#).

Last week, Secretary of State Anthony Blinken [warned](#) lawmakers about Azerbaijan's planned invasion of Armenia proper, which may occur in the next month. Like Turkey, Azerbaijan seeks to [eradicate](#) Armenians from the region.

International analysts [highlight](#) Azerbaijan's territorial expansionism. Stefan Meister, head of the Centre for order and Governance in Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia at the German Council on Foreign Relations, [explained](#). "It's part of this maximalist approach: you're hungry so you never stop eating if no one draws a red line." Meister urged Western governments to impose sanctions on Baku. The lack of consequences has led Baku to become so emboldened in ahistorical, expansionist ideology that Aliyev has [announced](#) a "Great Return Program" in which 140,000 Azerbaijanis will live in Syunik and Artsakh.

Syunik is home to the Zangezur corridor in Armenia, through which Azerbaijan [seeks](#) to build an oil pipeline to Turkey. Azerbaijan and Turkey will reap the economic benefits from controlling Syunik. But their true intention is to "connect the Turkic world," [according](#) to the Azerbaijani ambassador to Turkey, Rashad Mammadov. Mammadov's words [reek](#) of Pan-Turkism, the [ideology](#) behind the Armenian Genocide. As seen in Artsakh, attempts to create a New Ottoman Empire will cost thousands of Armenian lives.

On September 20, Azerbaijan [attacked](#) Armenia proper during its genocidal campaign to take over Artsakh. Azerbaijani Armed Forces [fired](#) in the direction of Armenian positions in the Gegharkunik region of Armenia itself. This attack followed Azerbaijan's bombardment and [firing](#) on the remaining Armenian populated areas of Artsakh. Attacking a country's [sovereign](#) borders violates the UN Charter and international law.

Since 2020, Azerbaijan has made several incursions into Armenian territorial integrity, resulting in Azerbaijan controlling 215 square km. of Armenian land. Azerbaijan [faced](#) no consequences for those incursions, nor for its war crimes in 2020. As a result, Azerbaijan was emboldened to [seize](#) Artsakh and to forcibly displace its residents without any repercussions. Without effective sanctions, the Turkish and Azerbaijani aggression will continue unchecked.

Despite the denial of Azerbaijan's intentions, the terror unleashed on Artsakh is not over. Armenian civilians and leaders were [forcibly deported](#) as they tried to escape the genocidal attacks. Now the world [watches](#) the Azerbaijani show trials of Artsakh's defenders as they are tried and convicted of "crimes against Azerbaijan."

The [purpose](#) of international law is to defend world order. But international law is not being enforced to prevent this Azerbaijani aggression. The world must act to defend Armenia.

Genocide Watch considers Azerbaijan to be at **Stage 4: Dehumanization, Stage 7: Preparation, Stage 8: Persecution, and Stage 10: Denial.**

Genocide Watch recommendations:

- To demonstrate that Azerbaijan's genocidal actions will not be tolerated, EU leaders must pull out of their [deal](#) with Azerbaijan to double gas imports by 2027.
- The U.S. Congress must repeal the Freedom Support Act section 907 waiver authority and stop all military and economic assistance to the Azerbaijani government.
- The U.S. and E.U. should impose Magnitsky [sanctions](#) on Azerbaijani leaders.
- Global oil corporations should boycott Azerbaijan as they have boycotted [Russia](#).
- The U.S. and France should [provide](#) military aid to Armenia to deter invasion and attack.
- Following reports by [Caucasus Heritage Watch](#) and the [Center for Truth and Justice](#), UNESCO must protect Armenian cultural centers at risk of destruction by Azerbaijan.



Genocide Watch
Alliance Against Genocide

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