
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1075 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY SANCHEZ, MURT, HOHENSTEIN, McCARTER, BRIGGS,
KINSEY, DAVIDSON, O'MARA, ROEBUCK, HOWARD, KENYATTA, ZABEL,
ROTHMAN, OTTEN, MALAGARI, VITALI, KIM, YOUNGBLOOD,
SHUSTERMAN, SAPPEY, BOYLE AND McCLINTON, OCTOBER 19, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, OCTOBER 19, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Condemning Azerbaijan's coordinated offensive in Nagorno-
2 Karabakh and denouncing Turkish interference in the conflict.

3 WHEREAS, Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as Artsakh, is a
4 territory located in the South Caucasus region that has
5 historically been populated by ethnic Armenians and is governed
6 by the Republic of Artsakh; and

7 WHEREAS, On December 10, 1991, despite continued violence
8 against the people of Artsakh, a popular referendum proclaiming
9 an independent republic took place during the disintegration of
10 the Soviet Union; and

11 WHEREAS, Under the watchful eye of more than 50 international
12 observers, and in full compliance with international standards
13 for a free and fair election, more than 80% of eligible voters
14 cast a ballot and the measure passed with 98% in favor; and

15 WHEREAS, On January 6, 1992, the democratically elected
16 Parliament of Artsakh adopted the Declaration of Independence of
17 the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic; and

1 WHEREAS, Since September 27, 2020, Azerbaijan has engaged in
2 the most significant military operation along the line of
3 contact with Nagorno-Karabakh since the signing of the cease-
4 fire agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia in 1994; and

5 WHEREAS, This attack follows increasingly aggressive rhetoric
6 and destabilizing actions on the part of Azerbaijan President
7 Ilham Aliyev's government towards Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia,
8 including a July 2020 Defense Ministry threat to bomb Armenia's
9 Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant; and

10 WHEREAS, Azerbaijan's ongoing military offensive, which
11 includes the shelling of Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh's most
12 densely populated city with a population of 55,200, has resulted
13 in the deaths of at least 84 Nagorno-Karabakh service members
14 and dozens of civilians, in addition to wounding hundreds; and

15 WHEREAS, Both Armenia and Azerbaijan have declared martial
16 law, mobilized their armed forces and called up reserve forces;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, According to multiple news reports, Azerbaijan's
19 military actions in Nagorno-Karabakh may be part of a planned
20 military operation; and

21 WHEREAS, The conflict follows joint military exercises
22 conducted by Turkey and Azerbaijan in August 2020, with news
23 accounts stating that in weeks prior to Azerbaijan's military
24 operation, Turkey recruited mercenaries from Syria and has
25 facilitated their deployment to Azerbaijan; and

26 WHEREAS, Additionally, the Armenian Foreign Ministry claims
27 that Turkey is operating F-16 fighter jets in the region and
28 shot down an Armenian Su-25 fighter jet in Armenian airspace,
29 killing the pilot; and

30 WHEREAS, The conflict has the potential to escalate into

1 proxy warfare among regional powers, including Turkey, and to
2 further entrench the conflict and threaten peace and stability
3 in the region; and

4 WHEREAS, The United States, France and Russia serve as
5 cochairs of the Minsk Group tasked with finding a peaceful
6 solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict; and

7 WHEREAS, The cochairs have urged a cease-fire and advised the
8 parties to return to substantive negotiations as soon as
9 possible, with the European Union and the United Nations
10 supporting a peaceful resolution and an immediate cease-fire;
11 therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That House of Representatives condemn Azerbaijan's
13 coordinated offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh and denounce Turkish
14 interference in the conflict.