

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 348

Rep. Manoogian offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to condemn the ongoing military attacks by the
2 Republic of Azerbaijan on the Republic of Armenia, commend United
3 States diplomats for their efforts to pursue a peaceful, diplomatic
4 solution to the conflict, and call upon the United States
5 government to pause all aid to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

6 Whereas, In September 2022, the Republic of Azerbaijan
7 initiated a new round of hostilities against the Republic of
8 Armenia, the latest chapter in a long history of conflict between
9 these two nations. At 12:05 a.m. on September 13, 2022, Azerbaijani
10 armed forces attacked civilian and military positions in the
11 municipalities of Sotk, Vardenis, Goris, Kapan, Artanish, and
12 Ishkhanasar within the borders of the Republic of Armenia, using
13 mortars and drones. Residents have reported heavy Azerbaijani

1 shelling along the border with Armenia. The Speaker of the United
2 States House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, has recognized that
3 this fighting "was initiated by the Azeris"; and

4 Whereas, Armenian sovereignty and territorial integrity has
5 been repeatedly violated by the Republic of Azerbaijan. As the
6 result of a previous Azerbaijani-instigated incursion in 2021, the
7 Republic of Azerbaijan has occupied 41 square kilometers of
8 Armenian territory. During the current invasion, the Republic of
9 Azerbaijan has now occupied an additional 10 square kilometers in
10 the Republic of Armenia; and

11 Whereas, This aggression by the Republic of Azerbaijan has
12 exacted a human toll on the people of both nations. As of September
13 16, 2022, the Republic of Armenia reports that 135 service members
14 have been killed in the fighting, and the Republic of Azerbaijan
15 says 77 members of its military have been killed. Furthermore,
16 Armenians are reporting that the Azerbaijani military has taken 20
17 Armenians as prisoners of war during this bout of fighting. Both
18 countries note that these totals will likely rise. This escalation
19 of the war by the Republic of Azerbaijan has ignited a new
20 humanitarian crisis within the Republic of Armenia, which reports
21 that more than 7,600 civilians have been displaced from border
22 communities as a result of the renewed violence. Media outlets are
23 also reporting damage done to more than 192 homes. Additionally,
24 these Armenian refugees may have the heart of their communities
25 stolen while the Republic of Azerbaijan controls Armenian
26 territory. Azerbaijani forces have – as standard practice – engaged
27 in the desecration of Armenian cultural and holy sites in areas
28 they have captured, spurred on by state-sponsored anti-Armenian
29 campaigns, which begin in primary school curricula around the

1 country; and

2 Whereas, United States diplomats in Yerevan, Baku, Geneva,
3 Washington, D.C., and elsewhere are working tirelessly to resolve
4 this conflict and stabilize the region. To facilitate dialogue
5 between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, the
6 United States Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, recently
7 appointed Philip Reeker to serve as Senior Advisor for Caucasus
8 Negotiations and Co-Chair of the Organization for Security and Co-
9 operation in Europe Minsk Group; and

10 Whereas, United States statute grants the President the power
11 to deny aid to the Republic of Azerbaijan. Section 907 of the
12 FREEDOM Support Act of 1992 bans almost all direct United States
13 aid to the Azerbaijani government. However, on January 10, 2002,
14 this law was amended to allow the President of the United States to
15 issue a Section 907 waiver, lifting the ban on aid to the Republic
16 of Azerbaijan, if it "is necessary to support United States efforts
17 to counter international terrorism," "is necessary to support the
18 operational readiness of United States Armed Forces or coalition
19 partners to counter international terrorism," "is important to
20 Azerbaijan's border security," and "will not undermine or hamper
21 ongoing efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement between Armenia
22 and Azerbaijan or be used for offensive purposes against Armenia."
23 Since 2002, every sitting President, including President Joseph R.
24 Biden, Jr., has exercised his right to waive Section 907; now,
25 therefore, be it

26 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we condemn the
27 ongoing military attacks by the Republic of Azerbaijan on the
28 Republic of Armenia and call for a peaceful, diplomatic solution to
29 the conflict that is based in securing a peaceful future for the

1 Armenian people, respecting the territorial integrity of the
2 Republic of Armenia, and protecting human rights and ancient
3 Armenian holy and cultural sites; and be it further

4 Resolved, That we recognize the ongoing efforts of American
5 diplomats to achieve a long-lasting and peaceful resolution to this
6 conflict; and be it further

7 Resolved, That we call upon the United States Congress to
8 pause all aid to the Republic of Azerbaijan and call for President
9 Joseph R. Biden, Jr., to rescind the waiver for Section 907 of the
10 FREEDOM Support Act of 1992; and be it further

11 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
12 President of the United States, the United States Secretary of
13 State, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
14 the United States House of Representatives, the members of the
15 Michigan congressional delegation, and United States
16 Representatives Anna Eshoo of California, Frank Pallone of New
17 Jersey, Adam Schiff of California, and Jackie Speier of California.