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ARMENIAN RELIEF SOCIETY, INC. / CENTRAL EXECUTIVE BOARD
NGO in Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC and in Association with the DPI

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December 4, 2020

Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross
Mr. Robert Mardini
19 Avenue de la paix
1202 Geneva
Switzerland

Honorable Mr. Mardini,

Confident, that You are as aware and as concerned as we are of the catastrophic aftermath of the recently ceased armed hostilities between the Republic of Artsakh and a *de facto* alliance of Azerbaijan, Turkey, and contingents of Islamic State mercenary terrorists, whose combined forces, armed with both conventional and internationally banned mass destruction weapons and ordinance, invaded the Armenian enclave.

Obviously, this unprovoked aggression resulted in countless deaths, both civilian and military, and destruction of homes, civic, cultural, religious, educational and public buildings, including infrastructure facilities, all mercilessly shelled, rocketed and devastated with cluster bombs day and night, throughout the duration of the hostilities, which finally ended by a cease fire, mediated by the President of the Russian Federation.

Presently, that mutually agreed upon and trilaterally signed declaration of immediate cease fire – the first step leading eventually to a negotiated armistice – specifically directs the two antagonist parties, as a very first step – the Immediate exchange of all prisoners of war, as well as civilians kept captive for the duration of hostilities.

Thus far, Azerbaijan, seems to be doing just the opposite, by secretly and publicly humiliating, torturing, beating and maiming Armenian prisoners of war, trampling their human rights guaranteed universally by the United Nations and protected by legally established international conventions. These crimes, added to the preceding indiscriminate cluster-bombing of civilian targets amount to genocidal crimes committed against humanity by the Azeri authorities.

We, therefore, appeal to you, as an international body of admitted authority in matters of international humanitarian crises, to intervene as soon as possible, and do Your utmost to save these prisoners of war the mental and physical torment which they presently endure, as illegally held captives. The only crime they have committed is being captured by a brutal and lawless enemy, while defending their millennial patrimony and people against slavery and eventual genocide.

Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nyree Derderian', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Nyree Derderian Ph.D.

Chairperson

Armenian Relief Society