

November 07, 2023

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH
AND KATHRYN BARGER**

**Los Angeles County Awareness Campaign and Volunteer Aid to the Displaced
Refugees in Armenia Resulting From the Azerbaijan/Artsakh War**

There are currently 120,000 refugees in Armenia, forcibly displaced from the Republic of Artsakh (AKA Nagorno-Karabakh) following the ongoing war between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenia's Ministry of Health has reported about 300 individuals suffering from severe burn wounds from a massive fuel depot explosion amid the exodus earlier this month. With only one burn specialist in the entire country, Dr. Gayane Grigoryan, working to treat patients dispersed among Yerevan's National Center of Burns and Dermatology and neighboring hospitals, Traveling Doctors - an international non-profit providing medical care and education to communities in need - is calling on governments and partners worldwide to send support.

The UN World Health Organization (WHO) has been a key ally working tirelessly to assist in providing urgent medical support. However, with limited capacity, supplies, and medical expertise, many of the burn victims remain untreated, risking further complications within months including infection, long-term nerve damage, and death.

This is an opportunity for the County of Los Angeles to stand in solidarity with the Armenian-American community here in Los Angeles and participate in raising awareness of the ongoing crisis by providing much-needed support to the underserved Armenian community

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abroad, who are currently cutoff from basic healthcare services and supplies.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the following:

- 1) Condemn the human rights violations, war crimes, and crimes against humanity carried out by the government of Azerbaijan against the Republic of Artsakh toward ethnic Armenian civilians;
- 2) Encourage humanitarian aid by directing the Department of Health Services to collaborate with Traveling Doctors (travelingdoctors.org) in providing volunteer opportunities and educational materials, including participating in telehealth services specific to treating burn wounds and skin grafting techniques for current victims; and
- 3) Raise awareness through the Department of Health Services and Countywide Communications about the ongoing atrocities since the start of the war in September of 2020 and the need for medical professionals across LA County to volunteer their services through Traveling Doctors.

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