

## **Open Letter to J.D. Vance, Vice President of the United States**

Dear Mr. Vice President,

We welcome your visit to the Republic of Armenia and hope it will serve as an impetus for deepening Armenian- American relations and establishing lasting peace in the region.

Considering that, during your visit, you will be in both Armenia and Azerbaijan, we, the undersigned human rights organizations, respectfully bring to your attention an urgent humanitarian issue concerning the release of the Christian Armenian political prisoners, prisoners of war and civilians currently held in Baku.

The recent repatriation of four prisoners demonstrated the profound importance of this humanitarian issue for our society. Release and repatriation of all Armenians detained in the context of armed conflict is of paramount importance to the peace process and serves as a critical confidence-building measure. Regrettably, 19 Christian Armenians continue to be detained and subjected to suffering in Azerbaijani prisons.

Given the unique role of the U.S. President Trump in brokering a peace deal and facilitating the peace process, the U.S. administration's active support to facilitate their return is invaluable. Such support becomes even more urgent given the deeply concerning statements by Azerbaijani officials indicating that the former officials of Nagorno-Karabakh are not intended to be returned. During this period, sham judicial proceedings are conducted against Armenians in fundamental denial of the principles of a fair trial. As a result of sham trials, life or long-term imprisonment sentences were handed down today, which are not consistent with the peace agenda.

The issue of the return of Christian Armenian prisoners was raised in Washington in August 2025, during the initialing of the Peace Agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the high-level meetings held under the leadership of U.S. President Donald J. Trump.

The current U.S. administration, led by President Donald J. Trump, has consistently emphasized the centrality of human rights guarantees. During his campaign, President Trump underscored the importance of protecting persecuted Christians. We are confident the U.S. administration is uniquely positioned to rightfully play a significant role in securing the release of the Christian Armenian prisoners held in Baku.

Today, under President Trump's leadership, Armenia and Azerbaijan are attempting to take steps toward peace. However, it is evident that, for the Armenian public, Azerbaijan's promises of peace cannot be credible if Armenian prisoners continue to be illegally detained and subjecting them and their relatives to suffering.

We, the undersigned human rights organizations, are convinced that resolving humanitarian issues is essential to building trust between the two countries. Without such trust, lasting peace is impossible.

We therefore respectfully appeal to you and to the U.S. administration to take steps to ensure that the Armenian prisoners are released and reunited with their families. We firmly believe that you can truly help resolve this pressing humanitarian issue and put an end to the suffering of many Armenian families.

***Signatures***

International and Comparative Law Center NGO

Protection of Rights without Borders NGO

Transparency International Anti-Corruption Center

Law Development and Protection Foundation

Disability Rights Agenda NGO

Dignity Humanitarian NGO

Helsinki Association for Human Rights NGO

Helsinki Citizens' Assembly — Vanadzor

Peace Dialogue NGO

Public Journalism Club NGO

Progressive Youth NGO

Journalists For Human Rights NGO

Centre for Community Mobilization and Support NGO

New Justice Culture NGO

Social Justice NGO

For Equal Rights NGO

Union for Protection of the Interests and Rights of the Artsakh People NGO

Mission Armenia NGO

Foundation against Violation of Law NGO

Arbane Foundation