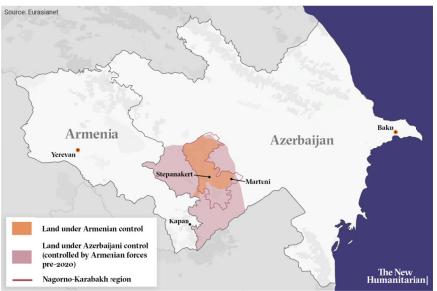


Those who are familiar with Armenia and the history of the Armenian people know that it has always gone through difficulties, challenges, life-and-death struggles. This ancient country of the world always had to fight to survive and to live in its own territory. Armenians have always been under danger of genocide and fought but their struggles have not always been crowned with success. It is enough to note that the territory, currently occupied by

the Republic

of Armenia, is only 10% of the territory of historical Armenia.

Back in 1915, one of the crimes of the 20th century took place: Ottoman Empire of Turkey organized the Armenian Genocide, when 1,5 million Armenians were killed and those who managed to survive had to leave their historical homeland and flee.



Another historical area populated by Armenians is Artsakh, which is better known as Nagorno Karabakh. Armenians have lived there since ancient times. In the territory of Artsakh, we have more than 5 dozen churches, which date from the 4th century. At the beginning of the 5th century, after the invention of Armenian writing, the first Armenian school was founded there and after that, universities and large monastic centers were established.

Artsakh, which has always been inhabited

by Armenians, was given to Azerbaijan as a "gift" by Russia during the Soviet Union. In 1920 Nagorno-Karabakh was recognized as part of Armenia in at least 4 different assemblies. It was also ratified on July 4, 1921, during a meeting held in Tbilisi, but the next day, on July 5, the leader of the USSR, Joseph Stalin, unexpectedly announced that Nagorno-Karabakh would be part of the Azerbaijan SSR as an autonomous region.

After the collapse of the USSR, just like other Soviet Union countries, the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh announced their withdrawal from the USSR and created their own state, the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, which, alas, has remained unrecognized until now.

During 1992-1994, the first Artsakh war took place during which Armenians managed to keep their independence. With more than 6,000 victims, Nagorno-Karabakh was declared a republic and gained its independence.







In the last 30 years, Nagorno-Karabakh functioned as a separate republic with its own constitution, president, and national assembly. But in 2020 the war again forced Armenians to relive the battle of existence and life. As a result of the war unleashed by Azerbaijan in 2020 we lost about 75% of territory of Artsakh and had about 4,000 victims. About 120,000 Armenians, including 30,000 children, continued to live in the remaining 25% of territory of Artsakh.



Just a few days ago, on September 19, 2023, Azerbaijan

launched another attack, this time on the remaining territories of Nagorno-Karabakh, firing on civilians and



Armenia. More than 54,000 people have already crossed the border in 2 days and this number is growing. The only road, by which they are coming to Armenia, has been overcrowded for 3 days. People stay on the road for days until they can cross the border.

demanding final disarmament and surrender. Without any outside support and strong defense the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic was forced to accept Azerbaijan's demands and lay down its arms. Within 1 day, hundreds of soldiers and civilians killed, captured, lost... Azerbaijan forced the army of Nagorno-Karabakh to disarm and surrender its weapons completely. The only road connecting with Armenia was opened for the defenseless and fleeing population, which had been closed by Azerbaijan for 9 months, starving the population of Nagorno Karabakh and depriving them of any humanitarian aid.

Now, the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh, fearing for their lives, simply leave their homes and everything and come to





The situation is dire... These people have been starving for 9 months and have already seen several wars and deaths of their relatives. They are forced to leave the graves of their relatives and tearfully leave their birthplace, realizing that the first thing that Azerbaijan will do is destroying their graves, churches and khachkars (cross-stones), as it happened in 2022, when Azerbaijan turned the Berdzor church into a mosque.

Perhaps one of the worst things that could happen to this people in these sorrowful days was the explosion of a gasoline tank in Stepanakert, the capital of

Nagorno-Karabakh. It happened one day ago and as a result more than 100 people died and 290 people were injured. Only one day after the accident Azerbaijan allowed transporting the critically injured to Armenia by helicopters. These days are one of the darkest days in the modern history of Armenia, when we witness how Armenians are forced to leave their historical homeland one more time...

We wanted to share this information with you and to ask you to stand by our nation and people with your prayers and support. For sure, now Armenia is not able to accept 120,000 refugees, to provide them with accommodation, food and work, but people are coming... Leaving everything behind, they just run for their lives and the lives of their children. We ask you to pray for them and stand beside us to communicate the most basic needs of our fellow citizens' lives. Winter is ahead, which will harden their living conditions even more. Now, there is a fundraiser for various items, food, clothes, and money in support of Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh. We as Christians, God's children and church are not able to remain indifferent to the problems of our compatriots. We ask you to join us and stand next to the Armenian people.

