

Statement by Swiss Parliamentarians: We Stand with Armenia and Armenian People

A delegation of Swiss Parliamentarians comprised of National Councilors Stefan Müller -Altermatt (Centre Party) and Michel Matter (Green Liberals) are presently in Armenia, accompanied by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Friendshipgroup Switzerland-Armenia, to express their condemnation of the military aggression of Azerbaijan against Armenia launched on September 13, 2022.

Azerbaijan bears full responsibility and guilt for the recent incidents; their attacks are a violation of binding international law and are thus a crime to be unequivocally condemned by the international community.

The Swiss Parliamentarians seek to underline that the territorial integrity of Armenia is an inviolable basis for lasting peace in the region. The international community must immediately and without equivocation put the aggressor nation in its place, and work for the peace and protection of Armenia.

Moreover, the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh bears the right to self-determination. Since Soviet times, this self-determination and more recently, the very existence of the people of Nagorno Karabakh has been under full-blown threat. It is untenable that a political solution to the Karabakh conflict is disregarded by the international community and denied by Azerbaijan.

After decades of ethnic intolerance and vitriolic racial proliferation against Armenians, a complete subordination of Nagorno-Karabakh to Azerbaijani rule is inconceivable and simply not possible. Criminal acts of indescribable cruelty and inhumanity committed against detained Armenian soldiers have been filmed and posted proudly on social media with the clear intention of perpetrating terror.

These are documented instances of war crimes and barbarism, and must be denounced and punished as such by international justice.

The delegation visit conveys to Armenia that Switzerland stands on the side of democracy, international and human rights and seeks to defend the nation against dictatorship and oppression. Armenia has taken conscious steps toward democracy and freedom of expression and thus adheres to the same community of values as Switzerland.

Switzerland bears a special responsibility as a depositary state of the Geneva Conventions and as an important hub in the international trade of raw materials. The Parliamentary Friendship Group Switzerland - Armenia works to ensure that the territorial integrity and rights of Armenia cannot be invaded with weapons financed from Switzerland, and that there is no tacit acceptance of the uncivilized actions of autocrats and tyrants here in Europe.