

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 735

Requesting information on Azerbaijan’s human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. COSTA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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# RESOLUTION

Requesting information on Azerbaijan’s human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON AZER-**  
3 **BAIJAN’S HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.**

4 (a) STATEMENT REQUESTED.—The House of Rep-  
5 resentatives requests that the Secretary of State, not later  
6 than 30 days after the date of the adoption of this resolu-  
7 tion, transmit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the  
8 House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign  
9 Relations of the Senate, pursuant to section 502B(c) of  
10 the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(c)),

1 a statement, prepared in collaboration with the Assistant  
2 Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and  
3 Labor and the Office of the Legal Adviser, regarding Azer-  
4 baijan’s human rights practices.

5 (b) ELEMENTS.—The statement submitted under  
6 subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

7 (1) All available information about the observ-  
8 ance and respect for human rights and fundamental  
9 freedoms in Azerbaijan, including information con-  
10 cerning alleged violations of internationally recog-  
11 nized human rights by the Government of Azer-  
12 baijan, including—

13 (A) unlawful or arbitrary killings;

14 (B) torture;

15 (C) cruel, inhuman, or degrading treat-  
16 ment or punishment of detainees;

17 (D) political prisoners;

18 (E) arbitrary arrest or detention;

19 (F) restrictions on freedom of assembly,  
20 association, and movement;

21 (G) pervasive problems with the independ-  
22 ence of the judiciary;

23 (H) forced disappearances;

24 (I) serious restrictions on freedom of  
25 speech, expression, and the media;

1           (J) severe restrictions on political partici-  
2           pation;

3           (K) discrimination against women and gen-  
4           der-based violence;

5           (L) restrictions on religious freedom;

6           (M) serious restrictions on internet free-  
7           dom; and

8           (N) existence of the worst forms of child  
9           labor.

10          (2) A description of the steps that the United  
11          States Government has taken—

12               (A) to promote respect for and observance  
13               of human rights in Azerbaijan and by the Gov-  
14               ernment of Azerbaijan, including in the context  
15               of the conflict with Armenia and Artsakh  
16               (Nagorno-Karabakh);

17               (B) to discourage any practices in Azer-  
18               baijan that are inimical to internationally recog-  
19               nized human rights; and

20               (C) to publicly or privately call attention  
21               to, and disassociate the United States and any  
22               security assistance provided for the Government  
23               of Azerbaijan from, any practices described in  
24               subparagraph (B).

1           (3) An assessment from the Secretary of State,  
2 notwithstanding any practices described in para-  
3 graph (2)(B), whether extraordinary circumstances  
4 exist that necessitate a continuation of security as-  
5 sistance for Azerbaijan.

6           (4) If such circumstances exist, a description of  
7 the circumstances and the extent to which security  
8 assistance should be continued (subject to such con-  
9 ditions as Congress may impose under section 502B  
10 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.  
11 2304)).

12           (5) Other information, including—

13           (A) an assessment from the Secretary of  
14 State of the likelihood that United States secu-  
15 rity assistance (as defined in section 502B(d) of  
16 the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.  
17 2304(d))) will be used in support of Azerbaijani  
18 activities related to the conflict with Armenia,  
19 aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh  
20 (Artsakh), and the blockade of the Lachin Cor-  
21 ridor;

22           (B) a description and assessment of the  
23 actions that the United States Government is  
24 taking to ensure end use monitoring protocols

1 for all weapons sold or transferred to Azer-  
2 bajian;

3 (C) an assessment of the impact of United  
4 States assistance provided to Azerbaijan over  
5 the past 10 years on the balance of power be-  
6 tween Azerbaijan and Armenia, and on efforts  
7 to negotiate a durable and lasting peace settle-  
8 ment between Armenia and Azerbaijan;

9 (D) a description of the United States  
10 Government's efforts to implement the Leahy  
11 Law in Azerbaijan and ensure that no units im-  
12 plicated in gross violations of human rights re-  
13 ceive United States assistance, including infor-  
14 mation on units that have been rejected in the  
15 Leahy vetting process;

16 (E) an assessment from the Secretary of  
17 State of whether ethnic cleansing or genocidal  
18 acts are taking place in Nagorno-Karabakh;  
19 and

20 (F) a description of any actions that the  
21 United States Government is taking to imple-  
22 ment sanctions, including sanctions under the  
23 Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability  
24 Act and section 7031(c) of the Department of  
25 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Pro-

1           grams Appropriations Act, to hold accountable  
2           Azerbaijani officials responsible for gross viola-  
3           tions of human rights or significant corruption.

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