



Attention:  
Foreign  
Affairs L.A.

## Armenian National Committee of America

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Foreign Affairs Legislative Assistant  
From: Aram S. Hamparian, Executive Director  
Date: January 18, 2005

**Re: State Department mischaracterizes Nagorno Karabagh**

I want to share with you the Armenian American community's surprise and outrage over a recent, highly incendiary statement by a senior State Department official mischaracterizing Nagorno Karabagh's government as "criminal secessionists" and calling for their removal from power. The statement, by Assistant Secretary of State Elizabeth Jones, was made during a January 13th digital video-conference with journalists in U.S. Embassies in Moscow, Rome and Bratislava.

Here is ANCA National Chairman Ken Hachikian's response to these remarks:

Assistant Secretary Jones's comments seriously weaken the foundation of our role - as Americans - as impartial mediators of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict. Her remarks unfairly attack the right of the people of Nagorno Karabagh to express themselves democratically through elections. They also prejudice the outcome of the OSCE negotiations, materially compromising the search for peace. Very significantly - these comments embolden the growing chorus in the Azerbaijan government that are calling for renewed aggression against Nagorno Karabagh.

The Armenian American community is shocked and outraged at Assistant Secretary Jones' remarks. We condemn her statements as counter to the long-standing U.S. policy of helping the parties reach a negotiated settlement, and call on the Administration to begin repairing this damage by immediately and clearly renouncing these patently unfair and demonstrably inaccurate remarks.

During the conference, Assistant Secretary Jones, in discussing U.S.-Russia bilateral relations, called for increased engagement in resolving regional conflicts in the former USSR, noting: "It is in Russia's interest for these areas, for Transnistria, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Nagorno-Karabakh, for these areas to be stable, for corruption to end there, for the criminal secessionists who rule there to be removed. It is not appropriate for this kind of instability and criminality to exist right in the middle of Europe."

The full transcript from the video conference may be obtained on the U.S. Embassy-Moscow website: [http://moscow.usembassy.gov/embassy/transcript.php?record\\_id=99](http://moscow.usembassy.gov/embassy/transcript.php?record_id=99)

ANCA NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
888 17th Street NW, Suite 904  
Washington, DC 20006  
ph: 202 775 1918, fx: 202 775 5648  
[www.anca.org](http://www.anca.org), [anca@anca.org](mailto:anca@anca.org)

ANCA WESTERN REGION  
104 N Belmont Street, 2nd Floor  
Glendale, CA 91204  
ph: 818 500 1918, fx: 818 246 7353  
[www.anca.org](http://www.anca.org), [ancawr@anca.org](mailto:ancawr@anca.org)

ANCA EASTERN REGION  
80 Bigelow Avenue  
Watertown, MA 02472  
ph: 617 923 1918, fx: 617 923 5525  
[www.ancaer.org](http://www.ancaer.org), [anca@anca.org](mailto:anca@anca.org)

