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Armenian National Committee of America  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Armenian Caucus - Legislative Aide  
From: Raffi Karakashian, Legislative Affairs Director  
Date: February 15, 2008  
  
RE: Nagorno Karabagh anniversary

I wanted to share with you an important letter regarding Nagorno Karabagh that is currently being circulated by the Co-Chairmen of the Armenian Caucus - Frank Pallone and Joe Knollenberg.

In this letter, the Co-Chairs encourage their Caucus colleagues to consider offering remarks on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Nagorno Karabagh democracy movement - a historic drive that sparked the popular uprisings that ultimately brought an end to the Soviet Union.

**Sadly, this year also marks the 20th anniversary of the Sumgait massacre in February of 1988. These brutal pogroms, which were organized by the Soviet Azerbaijani leadership specifically to intimidate and derail the Nagorno Karabagh democracy movement, were followed by others in Baku and across Azerbaijan. All told, as reported in the New York Times and elsewhere in the international media, more than 350,000 Armenians were forced from their historic homes.**

To take part in this effort to celebrate the triumph of the Nagorno Karabagh democracy movement over the brutality so powerfully symbolized by the Sumgait massacre, please contact Lindsay Lee in Congressman Knollenberg's office at (202) 225-5802 or Tiffany Guarascio in Congressman Pallone's office at (202) 225-4671.

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**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 14, 2008

**HONOR THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1988  
NAGORNO KARABAKH LIBERATION MOVEMENT**

Dear Colleague:

As the co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, we are writing to encourage you to join with us in making a floor statement marking the 20th anniversary of the 1988 Nagorno Karabakh democratic Liberation Movement. It is important that Congress recognize the democratic freedoms and economic liberty that the people of this proud Republic enjoy to this day.


As Americans, we value and appreciate the courage shown by the people of Nagorno Karabakh in standing up for democracy and sparking the popular movements that spread throughout the Soviet Republics and the Warsaw Pact, and eventually brought down the Soviet empire. We commemorate this movement not only for the liberty it brought to the people of Nagorno Karabakh, but also for the profound contribution it made to helping to create a safer world.

In the two decades since this historic movement began, the men and women of Nagorno Karabakh – in the face of aggression, blockade, and other truly daunting challenges – have built a vibrant democracy, fostered a free market economy, and constructively engaged with the international community to advance regional peace and cooperation.

We hope that you will consider offering remarks honoring this milestone in the growth of democracy. If we can provide you with any information or background materials, please feel free to contact Tiffany Guarascio of Mr. Pallone's staff at (202) 225-4671 or Lindsay Lee of Mr. Knollenberg's staff (202) 225-5802.

Sincerely,

  
FRANK PALLONE, JR.  
Member of Congress

  
JOE KNOLLENBERG  
Member of Congress