



Please deliver to:
**Foreign Affairs
Legislative Aide**

Armenian National Committee of America
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Foreign Affairs Legislative Aide
From: Aram Hamparian, Executive Director
Date: February 28, 2008

RE: The Nagorno Karabagh democracy movement

Please consider offering a floor statement in honor of the 20th anniversary of the 1988 Nagorno Karabagh democracy movement.

- * After nearly 70 years of foreign tyranny, in 1988, the people of Nagorno Karabagh asserted the right that we cherish as Americans: To live in freedom under a government of our own choosing. Through peaceful and legal means, they sought self-determination and voted for independence in a referendum.
- * The Soviets, in Moscow and Baku, responded with ethnic cleansing and massacres, notably in Sumgait (1988) and Baku (1990).
- * Over the past 20 years, Nagorno Karabagh has built a democratic society, held several free internationally-monitored elections, developed a free market system, and sought peace in the region.

// * The Nagorno Karabagh democracy movement inspired peoples throughout the Soviet Union to stand up against Communist tyranny – eventually leading to the end of the Soviet Empire's threat to world peace. //

By speaking out on this anniversary, you will honor a popular movement that helped bring down the Soviet Union, reaffirm America's commitment to supporting democracy, and support Nagorno Karabagh's efforts to build a free and democratic society.

Please call Kate Nahapetian or Raffi Karakashian at (202) 775-1918 for additional information.

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