

252. Mitgliederversammlung der ACK 22. März 2023, Magdeburg

100TH DAY OF BLOCKADE THE LACHIN CORRIDOR – CALL FOR SOLIDARITY AND PRAYER

We are following the situation of the people in the South Caucasus with great concern. Today is the 100th day of the blockade of the Lachin Corridor, which has cut off 120,000 people in Nagorno-Karabakh from food and medical supplies. The food situation is critical, lives have already been lost due to the lack of medical supplies, and the area is repeatedly cut off from electricity and heating. Armenian territory is threatened by massive troop contingents at its borders with Azerbaijan and Turkey. Iran is threatening with military intervention in the conflict. Due to these threats, many political and ethnic conflicts remain unresolved, and the rhetoric of violence and war characterise the everyday life of the peoples.

The situation in the South Caucasus is the result of unresolved territorial claims after the collapse of the Soviet Union as well as national and ethnic conflicts which have evolved historically. International mediation attempts (EU, UN, OSCE Minsk Group) have not yet been able to resolve the escalating situation in the South Caucasus. The international community still faces great challenges in this area to this day. The tensions have led to bloody conflicts in the past, most recently in the attack by Azerbaijani troops on Armenian territory on 13-15 September 2022.

In view of the threatening and increasingly intolerable situation for the people of the region, we as the Council of Churches in Germany call for solidarity and prayer.

The concern and suffering of one member church is the concern and suffering of the whole Council.

*Lord, our God,
it is your will that people live together in mutual respect and in peace. Send your spirit of love and reconciliation, so that the various peoples, religions and political convictions in the South Caucasus can live alongside one another in peace and reconciliation.*

You created the earth so that all generations may live peacefully on it. Put an end to the need of those trapped in Nagorno-Karabakh, prevent further violence on the borders of Armenia, and be with all those in Germany who fear for their loved ones in the Caucasus. Show those who bear responsibility in politics, business and society how they can act for the good of all in the face of ever-growing hostility.

*You are the source of hope, you renew the face of the whole earth. Through your Holy Spirit, give new confidence and courage to all who are at present without hope and perspective in Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Iran and among us. Pave the way for a future in reconciliation.
Amen.*

Magdeburg, 23 March 2023