

**Rep. Jim Costa Written Statement**  
**Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing**  
**“Human Rights in Azerbaijan Since the Fall of Nagorno-Karabakh”**  
**Thursday, September 19, 2024**  
**10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**  
**Rayburn House Office Building 2118**

- Thank you, Co-Chairs Smith and McGovern, for convening this important hearing today.
- This week marks one year ago that, after conducting an unjust blockade, Azerbaijan forcibly displaced over 120,000 Armenians from their historic homeland through a rapid military takeover of Artsakh.
- The Government of Azerbaijan must be held accountable for its crimes, which include human rights violation, and ethnic cleansing through forced displacement.
- Azerbaijan continues to threaten Armenia today.
- Azerbaijan has troops stationed on the Armenian side of the border and is expanding its presence by building a military barracks and widening highways to move in more heavy military equipment.
- This remains a threat and an impediment to the peace process.
- As the witnesses have noted, Freedom House recently published a thorough and authoritative report documenting Azerbaijan’s human rights violations and other crimes committed against the people of Artsakh.
- I commend the work of all those who contributed to the report. It lays out in stark detail the crimes for which Azerbaijan must be held accountable.
- To that end, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the “Artsakh Revenue Recovery Act.” Led by Rep. Adam Schiff, the bill would confiscate Azerbaijani assets held in the United States and set up a fund to compensate Artsakh Armenians for the property and revenue they lost as a result of Azerbaijan’s military takeover.