

Campaign Free Armenian Hostages FAQ

Q1: What is the purpose of the campaign?

A1: The campaign seeks to use the platform of the 29th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 29), held in Azerbaijan in November, to advocate for the release of Armenian hostages and political prisoners held in Baku prisons. The campaign also aims to highlight the hypocrisy of Azerbaijan's portrayal of COP 29 as a "COP of Peace" while addressing issues related to climate change and genocide.

Q2: What are the main goals of the campaign?

A2: The main goals are:

1. Release of Hostages: Secure the release of 23 Armenian hostages from Baku prisons and other political prisoners.
2. Raise Awareness: Generate widespread global awareness about the ongoing issues in Nagorno-Karabakh and the rights of people of Artsakh. .
3. Address Hypocrisy: Expose the contradictions between Azerbaijan's actions and its portrayal of COP 29 as a peace event.
4. Enforce International Law: Advocate for the implementation of international conventions on climate change and genocide.
5. Protect Armenia: By increasing awareness and understanding of the pressures, we aim to protect Armenia in the long term.

Q3: Who is leading this campaign?

A3: This is a non-partisan campaign that began with a call to action from Luis Moreno Ocampo, the First Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC). It is led by Armenian community leaders in Armenia and the Diaspora, such as the US-based Center for Truth and Justice, as well as civil activists. It will be publicly endorsed and supported by prominent Armenian organizations, influencers, and celebrities. The campaign calls upon Armenians worldwide and concerned global citizens to unite in this cause.

Q4: What is COP 29 and when is it?

A4: COP 29 is the 29th annual Conference of the Parties under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It is a global conference where nations come together to discuss and negotiate actions to combat climate change. COP 29 will be held on November 11-22, 2024, in Baku.

Q5: Why is COP 29 significant for this campaign?

A5: COP 29 will attract global attention, providing a crucial moment to highlight the plight of the Nagorno-Karabakh people and advocate for their rights. It is an opportunity to expose Azerbaijan's hypocrisies and press for the release of the 23 Armenian hostages and other political prisoners.

Q6: What is the relationship between climate change and genocide?

A6: Both climate change and genocide are addressed by international conventions: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992) and the Genocide Convention (1948). However, these conventions have not been effectively implemented. The campaign aims to highlight the need for better enforcement of these principles to address both global warming and ongoing genocides, including that in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Q7: Why focus on Azerbaijan's fossil fuel industry?

A7: Azerbaijan's economy heavily relies on fossil fuels, which are a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Despite this, Azerbaijan is hosting COP 29, a conference aimed at combating climate change. This presents a significant hypocrisy, as the country also engages in human rights abuses against Armenians. Highlighting this contradiction is a key aspect of the campaign.

Q8: What can be achieved through this campaign?

A8: By mobilizing global support, the campaign aims to ensure that COP 29 not only addresses climate change but also champions human rights and justice. The goal is to secure the release of Armenian hostages and political prisoners and to hold Azerbaijan accountable for its actions. The campaign also aims to protect Armenia long-term.

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