

Pray & Act Report from Artsakh
Saturday September 2, 2023

Good day, dear fellow believers and friends. Due to the prevailing conditions, the days of the Armenians living in Artsakh are not good. Regardless, kind and warm greetings from strong, resilient, unbreakable, patient, besieged and blockaded Artsakh.

In this extreme situation, when the concern of Artsakh's existence is the pressing issue in the [hearts, minds and] life of every Armenian, I inform you, with a rather heavy heart, how our team, ignoring the existing difficulties, continues to carry out AMAA's programs unconditionally and with a great sense of responsibility.

Let me remind you that the conditions in Artsakh today are dire in all respects. The activities of many state and non-state organizations have been paralyzed. Public transportation has been completely suspended, there is a complete lack of fuel and gas.

Parallel to this, the periodic power outages, the big problem of food insufficiency, to which the problem of bread has already been added...Emergency aid activities have been suspended since yesterday, there is a severe shortage of medicine. In short, the dire conditions to which we have adapted, rather than fight against, are painful.

Despite all the existing difficulties, the AMAA continues to operate without grumbling. During the last 3 months, we organized and implemented Day Camps for children and teenagers and an overnight camp for young people from rural communities. The camps operated in Stepanakert and Askeran, exclusively with internal resources and locally produced agricultural products. Of course, the lack of some products was significant, however, the program was targeted. and effective.

AMAA's Kindergartens reopened in mid-August. We have been working for several days now and the kindergartens have not been supplied with bread due to the lack of flour. However, some food collected [and stored] in advance allows us to continue the program.

We are in constant touch with state and non-state entities concerning the provision of aid to them, in addition to our existing programs. In addition to our adopted and operating programs, we provide support to others. Today, AMAA is one of the few who not only did not stop its activities under these conditions, but apart from our programs, we help state and private entities in different ways according to their needs.

Social workers are constantly in contact with all our beneficiaries and in case of need, provide as much support as possible, both materially and morally. "Shogh" day centers also continue their activities, although there are many problems here as well.

So much for what has been done... it was easy to present what has been done, but I am sure that it is difficult to imagine the high cost at which these programs are being implemented. Deliveries are made on foot; meals are cooked on outdoor fires; some activities are scheduled to coincide with the availability of electricity.

Friends, let Artsakh remain in your thoughts and memories as you have seen it [in the past]: prosperous, independent, abundant, carefree, hospitable, appealing...how much everyone yearned for him at that time, how sweet are the memories of Artsakh that Armenians have. How desirable and easy it was to love Artsakh, talk about it and present it. Yes, everything is good and positive, when it's easy, it's beautiful... you can't oppose the truth... The pain today is that Armenians do not oppose the wrong.

Today, Azerbaijan conducts a policy that not only puts state barriers in front of us, but also takes and implements such steps as to eliminate and suppress any component/entity that has anything to do with the security and self-determination of Artsakh, including the Legal entity of Artsakh.

Dear compatriots, be our voices, be our call, our demands and advocates in different countries. The process is quite complicated, I know, but our situation is not easy, in terms of living and being.

We did our part, and we continue to do what we can do and what we can't do. I call on us not to give up our national idea, our ideology, and Artsakh. Let's all unite, in practice, and it will be, it [Artsakh] will be ours. I want to say once again, we can create political conditions, legal theses [cases] and legislative methods, and keep the internationalization process of Artsakh as a priority in foreign policy.

As you have seen, in the last two months, it was possible to turn the international media and political discussions towards Artsakh to a certain extent, but at any cost, and how long we will endure, let's join forces to raise the Republic of Artsakh, the legal entity of Artsakh to a new level. It may be difficult, or it seems impossible for many and it is not visible, but let's not give up on that goal, let's make it the strategic goal of our independence and thereby achieve our common goal.

Dear people, we all see the broken state of the Armenia-Artsakh-Diaspora trinity. Thanks to that trinity, we were able to achieve success in the 90s, the result of this unity brought us victory, thank God. Therefore, we need clear steps to restore the trinity. Artsakh was one of the main actors of that union at that time, and today, with the same willingness and assumed mission, Artsakh calls its brothers and sisters, Armenians, to gather, to be restored and to recover.

Now, when Artsakh is being crucified, the Armenians have become spectators, moreover, there are not a few people who are watching the role-play and shouting "CRUCIFY"... Love has grown cold, empathy is lacking, so is unity, it has been irreversibly divided. Artsakh, more than any other country in the world, feels the end times are upon us.

Artsakh is in an extreme situation, but despite the support of the UN, CSTO, and EU countries and other international organizations, the Armenians besieged in Artsakh need Armenians. What is happening now with our homeland is not adequately appreciated, not only by the international community, but also by us, by our compatriots. There is an impression that everything is being done to distract Armenians from the Artsakh problem.

If there were reactions of concern in the early days, now there is a painful and stony silence. Everyone continues to live, Artsakh continues not to live... yes, not to live. Today Stepanakert resembles a ghost town from horror movies. During the day, people are tired, numb, worried...at night, small children, young people, women, old people drag themselves from bakery to bakery hoping to find daily bread... The decision to live in such conditions is the hardest, the most terrible, but we have decided to live in Artsakh and fight to keep Artsakh Armenian... We have made that decision on behalf of our small children, unborn babies, our patients, the elderly, our soldiers, our boys... without their ability to consent. We have condemned them to unconditionally love this precious piece of land and I wish that nobody will have to face such choices as ours. We have chosen to keep the dignity of Armenians...

And if anyone in any part of the world thinks that everything is over, they are seriously mistaken, friends... and I believe that if all the Armenians of the world want Artsakh to be ours, it will be... it will be ours...

Remember in your prayers that there is Artsakh. It needs all of us...