

Scholars have long understood that targeting civilians by restricting access to food, medicine, and other necessities for life can become an act of genocidal violence. Such a situation is occurring in the Republic of Artsakh where an Azerbaijani blockade has caused a condition of politically motivated famine aimed at eliminating the civilian population. A single road, the Lachin corridor, serves Artsakh where an enclave of ethnic Armenians is cut off from the world. This region inside the borders of Azerbaijan, also known as Nagorno Karabakh, has been the subject of an ongoing conflict that erupted into war in 2020 between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The history and geopolitics of the dispute are complex and reporting on the events that have led to the blockade is scant within the mainstream press in the United States. But make no mistake, the humanitarian crisis unfolding has reached an existential level that threatens to become a genocide.

As the world sits by, Armenians are beginning to perish from lack of food. During the Armenian Genocide, reports about the 1915 atrocities led to the formation of the Campaign for Near East Relief, which raised significant funds to provide aid to “starving Armenians.” Where is the outrage about the present-day effort to ethnically cleanse the indigenous population of Nagorno-Karabakh? Armenians are once again starving but the care and indignation of the world are missing.

Taner Akçam, Director of the Armenian Genocide Research Program of the Promise Armenian Institute, UCLA

Professor Jan Grabowski, University of Ottawa

Marta Havryshko, Dr. Thomas Zand Professor, Clark University

Thomas Kühne, Strassler Center Director and Strassler Colin Flug Professor, Clark University

Professor Ken MacLean, Clark University

Mary Jane Rein, PhD, Strassler Center Executive Director, Clark University

Zoe Samudzi, Charles E. Scheidt Professor, Clark University

Elyse Semerdjian, Kaloosdian Mugar Professor, Clark University

Frances Tanzer, Rose Professor, Clark University