

**NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE**



SENATOR MICHAEL N. GIANARIS
12TH DISTRICT

DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

October 16, 2020

Honorable Michael R. Pompeo, Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street NW, 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

I write regarding a serious situation involving regional stability in the Middle East and in the Caucasus region.

Many Americans from the Greek, Cypriot and Armenian diaspora are increasingly alarmed at recent aggression in Cyprus and Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabach) by the Republic of Turkey under President Erdogan. These actions violate international norms and threaten peace and stability in two already-volatile regions.

As I am sure you are aware, in recent weeks President Erdogan and his like-minded allies have escalated violence in these two locations, causing significant civilian casualties, violating long-standing agreements, and undermining ongoing efforts to create new ones.

Most recently, the government of Turkey decided to re-open Varosha, a resort town in Turkish-occupied northern Cyprus, in violation of international law and United Nations Security Council resolutions. Turkey's increasingly problematic behavior is also escalating the ethno-religious conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan by, among other methods, using American-made F-16's and cynically financing a mercenary force comprised of Syrian civil war survivors to suppress Armenians in Artsakh.

I respectfully urge you to spearhead efforts to re-stabilize both regions by persuading instigators such as the leaders of Turkey and its allies to desist in actions that undermine the safety and security of Cypriot and Armenian people who deserve peace, security, and independent self-determination.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to discussing this matter with you in greater detail in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael N. Gianaris".

Senator Michael Gianaris
Deputy Majority Leader

