

B.S.D. Brussels, September 6, 2023

H.E. Vahagn Garniki Khachaturyan
President of Armenia

H.E. Nikol Pashinyan
Prime Minister of Armenia

Dear excellencies,

As rabbis serving the Jewish communities across the European continent, we are writing to you following interviews given by senior Armenian government officials in the international media on matters related to the political conflict with the government of Azerbaijan in which usage was made of horrifying expressions only suitable for the intentional, systematic and largest genocide in the history of humanity which was suffered by the Jewish people. The holocaust.

During WWII the Jewish people were persecuted, murdered, butchered, burned, tortured, drowned and buried alive. The holocaust was not limited to a single place but occurred throughout almost the entire European continent and with the collaboration of too many nations.

Expressions such as “ghetto”, “genocide”, “holocaust” and others are in no uncertain terms inappropriate to be part of the jargon used in any kind of political disagreement. Usage of these terms belittles the terrible suffering experienced by the victims of the horrific holocaust and the Jewish people at large which still bears the indescribable pain of the largest tragedy ever experienced by a single group.

We call upon you to explicitly and unequivocally clarify that the Armenian people recognizes and honors the terrible human suffering undergone by the Jewish people and that minimizing and belittling the extent of the Jewish people’s suffering to further any political interest through incessantly using phrases associated with the holocaust suffered by the Jewish people should immediately and utterly be stopped. It must obviously be seen that this message is taken onboard by all relevant public bodies representing the Armenian people.

At this juncture, and specifically in light of the fact that the Armenian government is speaking against “genocide”, we wish to voice our great disappointment with the Armenian government’s collaboration with the governing authorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran - a country which incessantly openly and publicly calls for its destruction of the only Jewish country in the world - Israel.

Respectfully,

Rabbi Yirmiya Cohen, **Head of Paris Rabbinical court, France**
Rabbi Israel Lichtenstein, **Head of the rabbinical court of the Federation of Synagogues, UK**
Rabbi Yitschak Rubin, **Manchester Jewish community, UK**
Rabbi Baruch Oberloander, **Head of Budapest Rabbinical court, Hungary**
Rabbi Eliezer Schneebalg, **Head of Edgware Rabbinical court, London, UK**
Rabbi Michael Szmerla, **Head of Strasbourg Rabbinical court, France**
Rabbi Avraham David, **head of sefarad Rabbinical court, London, UK**
Rabbi Avraham Hazan, **Kehilot Yaakov Jewish community, Milan, Italy**
Rabbi Shlomo Bistriski, **Chief Rabbi of Hamburg, Germany**
Rabbi Binyomin Jacobs, **Chief Rabbi of the Netherlands**
Rabbi Ron Chasid, **Chief Rabbi of Gibraltar**
Rabbi Yitzchak Niazov, **Chief Rabbi Sefard Jewish community, Vienna, Austria**
Rabbi Levi Raskin, **Rabbinical Judge, London, UK**
Rabbi Levi Kahan, **Rabbinical Judge, Paris, France**
Rabbi Shmuel Brodman, **Chief Rabbi of Munich, Germany**
Rabbi Yehuda Teichtel, **Chief Rabbi of Berlin, Germany**
Rabbi Mordechai Bald, **Chief Rabbi of Lviv, Ukraine**
Rabbi Baruch Myers, **Chief Rabbi of Slovakia**
Rabbi Shlomo Wilhelm, **Chief Rabbi of Zhitomir, Ukraine**
Rabbi Yossef Amar, **Seine et Marne, France**
Rabbi Shmuel Houri, **Tunisian Jewish Community, Paris, France**
Rabbi Yaakov Biderman, **Heichal Menachem community, Vienna, Austria**
Rabbi Yechiel Brand, **Sarcelles Jewish community, France**
Rabbi Yosef Pevzner, **Sinai Jewish community, Paris, France**
Rabbi Avraham Nino Dayan, **Rabbi of Livorno, Italy**
Rabbi Zeev Raskin, **Chief Rabbi of Cyprus**
Rabbi Chai Amram, **Marseille Jewish Community, France**
Rabbi Shmuel Kot, **Chief Rabbi of Estonia**

Rabbi Daniel Ashkenazi, **Barcelona Jewish community, Spain**
Rabbi Pinchas Zaklas, **Menorah Jewish community, Zagreb, Croatia**
Rabbi Avishalom Kalazan, **Seferad Jewish community, Antwerp, Belgium**
Rabbi Shmuel Katzman, **Chief Rabbi of Den Haag, the Netherlands**
Rabbi Eliezer Gourary, **Krakov Jewish Community, Poland**
Rabbi Doron Achiel, **Netzach Israel Jewish community, London, UK**
Rabbi Chaim Segal, **Jewish community, Malta**
Rabbi Netanel Teitelbaum, **Bremen Jewish community, Germany**
Rabbi Yosef Salamon, **Chief Rabbi of Bulgaria**
Rabbi Menachm Glitsenstein, **Chief Rabbi of Chernivtsi, Ukraine**
Rabbi Arie Edelkopf, **Chief Rabbi of Montenegro**
Rabbi Elazar Bitton, **Chaarei Tzion Jewish community, Brussels, Belgium**
Rabbi Menachem Gurevich, **Offenbach Jewish community, Germany**
Rabbi Menachem Wilhelm, **Chief Rabbi of Uzhhorod, Ukraine**
Rabbi Shaul Wilhelm, **Oslo, Norway**
Rabbi Shneur Havlin, **Jewish community of Dresden, Germany**
Rabbi Mendel Lewin, **Nijmegen Jewish community, The Netherlands**
Rabbi Shmuel Feigin, **Chief Rabbi of Debrecen, Hungary**
Rabbi Shmuel Raskin, **Keren Or Jewish community, Budapest, Hungary**
Rabbi Menachem Chadad, **Chief Rabbi of Brussels, Belgium**
Rabbi Michal Rosenblum, **Ohel Eliezer community, Brussels, Belgium**
Rabbi Arye Goldberg, **General Director, Rabbinical Centre of Europe**

CC:

President of the European Parliament
President of the European Commission