

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003885/25

**to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Thijs Reuten (S&D), Nacho Sánchez Amor (S&D), Juan Fernando López Aguilar (S&D), Marie Toussaint (Verts/ALE)**
(3 October 2025)

Subject: The unresolved situation of displaced people and prisoners of war from Nagorno-Karabakh after the peace deal

In 2023, Azerbaijan created a humanitarian crisis by blocking the Lachin corridor, in violation of an International Court of Justice order. In September 2023, Azerbaijan's aggression in Nagorno-Karabakh forcibly displaced around 120 000 Armenians, while several leaders were arrested and prosecuted by military courts.

On 8 August 2025, Armenia and Azerbaijan signed a peace agreement. However, this agreement does not address reparations for the conflict victims. On 3 September 2025, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the only organisation with access to the prisoners of war, was forced to cease its operations in Azerbaijan.

The Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) has highlighted that the right of displaced Armenians to return 'without intimidation and discrimination ... is a fundamental human right', as is the need for fair trials and adequate detention conditions for Armenian prisoners.

Taking into account Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union and Article 2 of the 1999 Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with Azerbaijan (PCA) ⁽¹⁾:

1. Does the VP/HR consider that Azerbaijan is fulfilling its human rights obligations under the PCA regarding Armenian displaced persons and detainees?
2. Does the VP/HR agree that Azerbaijan has unfulfilled responsibilities and obligations under international law?
3. In the context of the PCA, what role can the EU play to resolve pending human rights and transitional justice issues?

Submitted: 3.10.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(20 January 2026)

The EU has consistently called for the release and repatriation of all conflict related detainees, including those from Karabakh, as a confidence-building measure.

The EU has called on Azerbaijan to respect due process and to ensure that allegations of war crimes and other misconduct are investigated in a transparent manner.

The EU continues to support efforts towards the normalisation of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan on all pending issues and welcomed the joint Armenia-Azerbaijan statement of 7 December 2023 on confidence-building measures, including the exchange of prisoners ⁽¹⁾.

Similarly, the EU strongly commended both sides for the initialling of their bilateral peace treaty on 8 August 2025 in Washington, marking a significant breakthrough to end decades of conflict ⁽²⁾.

The EU continues to call for the parties to maintain momentum and take further steps that would support the peace process, including the release of conflict affected detainees and stands ready to help with the implementation of the Washington agreements.

Additionally, as stipulated in the partnership and cooperation agreement ⁽³⁾ between the EU and the Republic of Azerbaijan, the rule of law and human rights are at the core of the EU-Azerbaijan partnership.

In this context, the EU has repeatedly voiced concerns regarding the unsettling rise of arrests of independent journalists, human rights defenders and political activists.

¹ Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Azerbaijan, of the other part (OJ L 246, 17.9.1999, pp. 3, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/1999/614/oj (http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/1999/614/oj)).

⁽¹⁾ <https://x.com/JosepBorrellF/status/1732853939123437947>.

⁽²⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/08/08/armeniaazerbaijan-statement-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-european-union-on-the-initialling-of-the-armenia-azerbaijan-peace-treaty/pdf/>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A01999A0917%2801%29-20091101>.

The EU has consistently called on the Azerbaijani authorities to ensure that their actions adhere to the relevant obligations under domestic and international law, together with the release of all persons imprisoned for exercising their fundamental rights. These messages have been conveyed publicly and bilaterally at all levels.
