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Center for Truth and Justice Requests Azerbaijan Allow International Lawyers to Observe Trials of Armenian Prisoners

Los Angeles, USA - The Center for Truth and Justice (CFTJ) has requested the government of Azerbaijan allow a team of distinguished international lawyers to travel to Baku to attend and monitor the upcoming trials of Armenian prisoners, set to begin on January 17, 2025.

“These prisoners have been illegally held in pretrial detention with fabricated accusations, without access to legitimate legal representation. They have little to no contact with family members. International trial monitors are necessary to hold the Azerbaijani judicial system accountable for what is expected to be closed and secret trials,” said Gor Mnatsakanyan, President of the Center for Truth and Justice.

The trials involve eight political and military leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh which was ethnically cleansed by Azerbaijan’s ten-month-long blockade followed by military aggression in September of 2023, when 120,000 Armenians were forced to flee to Armenia.

The international monitors awaiting visas from Azerbaijan include **Ana Maria Careaga**, Director of the Instituto Espacio para la Memoria and Director of the Institute for Human Rights Studies at Atlantida University; **Claudia Viviana Rocca**, lawyer and President of the Argentine Association of Jurists, Professor at the National University of Mothers of Plaza de Mayo and National University of Moreno, Argentina; **Irene Victoria Massimino**, lawyer and expert in human rights and international criminal law; Former Rapporteur of the High Criminal Court of Buenos Aires; Professor of Law; USA; **Avi Singh**, Senior Advocate and International Criminal Lawyer.

CFTJ requests immediate action from Azerbaijani authorities to secure visas and ensure the safety of these observers throughout their visit.

About the Center for Truth and Justice (CFTJ):

CFTJ is a US-based non-profit organization composed of attorneys, advocates, and professionals dedicated to amplifying the voices of victims affected by war crimes, displacement, mass atrocities, and genocide. CFTJ is home to over 600 testimonies from victims of war crimes.

Media Contact: Meline Mailyan, Esq.
info@CFTJustice.org