



Statement on the Clashes in the Nagorno-Karabakh Region

October 4, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTTAWA, ON - The Honourable Michael Chong, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, today issued the following statement on the ongoing clashes in the Nagorno-Karabakh region:

"Conservatives are deeply concerned about ongoing reports of Armenia-Azerbaijan military clashes in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone.

"We believe there can be no military solution to this conflict. The best path forward is to avoid further escalation. We urge restraint on all sides and adherence to the historical ceasefire, as well as the protection of civilians - including for all parties of the conflict to stop the shelling of civilian areas and critical infrastructure.

"We continue to call on the Liberal government to support the right of self-determination for the people of the region.

"It is our sincere hope that OSCE-negotiations resume quickly within the framework of the Minsk Group process and call for the reinstatement of independent monitors at the line of control.

"We are also concerned about reports of the Liberal government's role in the conflict. Due to export control violations, the government halted exports of Canadian manufactured military equipment to Turkey in October 2019. However, last April the government resumed approvals of these military exports, reported to have been used in the clashes in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, in violation of Canadian export controls.

"Prime Minister Trudeau has said an investigation has commenced. This investigation needs to be made public. In addition, the government needs to remind Turkey of its obligations as a NATO ally, particularly when it comes to the alliance's shared commitment to the international rules-based order.

"Conservatives will continue to monitor the situation Nagorno-Karabakh region closely. We will continue to hold the Liberal government accountable to ensure that Canada's arms exports are used appropriately and in accordance with Canadian law and international treaties."

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