

May 12, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Mr.

Armenian Quarter, Jerusalem

Dear Mr.

We have been following recent developments in the Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem very intently.

As you may know, our law firm has global expertise in complex matters of international law and human rights, particularly in areas concerning the rights and protections of Armenians—whether in Armenia, Artsakh or the Diaspora. Our representations have included precedent-setting representations against the Republic of Turkey, Azerbaijan as well as other state actors infringing upon the rights and security of Armenians. We believe your cause is one of historic national significance.

The Armenian community in Jerusalem, right now, is championing issues of paramount importance to the survival and security of the Armenian Quarter of the Old City. You are highlighting our people's endemic struggle for the historical right to exist on that very land.

For our nation, this is a critical theme that transcends geographic limitations and evidences a wider, indeed quite sophisticated, effort to effectuate the ultimate dispossession and displacement of the Armenian people from key places of historic presence and international importance. Just as in Western Armenia, we see this stratagem unfolding today in Artsakh, on the borders of Armenia and, now quite starkly, in Jerusalem too. It is enough—and it must be stemmed outright.

Your struggle is a powerful and noble stand against the destructive forces bent on changing the history and demography of our centuries-old existence in the Old City. The voice of the Armenian people remains the final defense of this historic presence—and indeed, of our very future—in the Armenian Quarter. The Armenian community must be heard, in fact must lead, when actions engineered to dispossess, disenfranchise, and displace the Armenian people are afoot. Here, the suspect real estate dealings are undoubtedly and strategically aimed at undermining our enduring Armenian footprint in one of the most important cities in the world. This must not and cannot be tolerated. It must be challenged and defeated at its root—fully, transparently, and unremittingly.

We have reviewed the May 11, 2023, Joint Statement issued by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Palestine, as well as the Communiqué issued earlier today by the Divan of the Holy Synod of the Armenian Patriarchate. We know the unique international law framework applicable to the Old City of Jerusalem as well as the complex international law, human rights, and cultural and historical preservation issues that are central to its perseverance.

We are prepared to represent and assist the Armenian community of Jerusalem in strategic legal considerations; negotiations with the various institutions, entities and state actors; and, where necessary, in international forums and judicial proceedings. We stand ready to be of service, and we await your formal contact.

Sincerely,



Karnig Kerkonian