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One Hundred Twelfth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
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May 29, 2012

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

I am writing to express my concern over a proposal by the Department of State to allow the sale of military equipment to the Government of Azerbaijan. This proposal is included in case "DDTC 12-002".

Two months ago, my staff inquired as to the possible use of this equipment by Azerbaijan. Just last week, they were informed that it would be used on existing helicopters to aid in border surveillance and "police-type" activities.

As Azerbaijan shares a border with Armenia, this equipment could be used to identify and possibly target Armenians in the border area for surveillance or for attack. I am also concerned about the message that such a sale would send to the regional parties, both in terms of perceived U.S. even-handedness and in terms of our seriousness about persuading Baku to cease its bellicose rhetoric and agree to Minsk Group co-chair demands that it remove its snipers from the "line of contact" in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

I therefore urge you to alter the proposal and prevent this military equipment from being sold to Azerbaijan.

Sincerely,

HOWARD L. BERMAN
Ranking Member