

Nagorno-Karabakh region is at the brink of losing U.S. financial aid

James B. Warlick, former United States Ambassador to Bulgaria and currently the U.S. State Department's Special Envoy for Frozen Conflicts is going to sue private financial institutions based in the United States for funneling money into Nagorno-Karabakh, the statement confirmed by the Warlick's associate representatives. The region is known as a disputed territory between Azerbaijan, in which it lies and Armenia, which de-facto controls it via a puppet state of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, established after a bloody conflict in the 1990s.

Earlier in 2016, as a co-Chair of Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group, Ambassador Warlick took part in long and fruitless negotiations which so far failed to bring permanent peace to this frozen territorial conflict. However, by using his close ties with the Department of State, Warlick was quite successful to make his colleagues share his belief that the financial aid from the United States to Nagorno-Karabakh emboldens Armenian separatists in the region and prevents the ongoing negotiations process. According to the Warlick's associate representatives, his efforts to sue Armenian community in the U.S. is some sort of a signal to all ethnic organizations in the United States that such kind of separatist-friendly behavior is not going to be tolerated. Moreover, shall the suit turn out to be successful, it will prevent US-based organizations from sending any money or making any transactions with Nagorno-Karabakh entities or those who act as middlemen between Nagorno-Karabakh and the U.S. Armenian community.

Meanwhile, the Department of State neither confirmed nor denied the Ambassador Warlick's efforts. Yet, according to an expert from the Department's Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs who preferred not to be named, the Ambassador Warlick's confidential memorandum on the problem is closely and quite positively scrutinized by the Bureau and particularly its acting head, Assistant Secretary of State John Heffern, who, ironically, once used to be Head of the American embassy in Armenia.

By Olga Malik for EU Reporter