

**FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF AGBU GERMANY**

**It is the first anniversary of the establishment of the first German Chapter of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), which was founded in Cairo in 1906 and is now based in New York. AGBU Germany President Georgi Ambarzumjan comments on this anniversary and calls for donations in support of the people of Armenia and Artsakh, which the non-profit association would like to collect in Germany.**

**Berlin - December 10, 2021**

Today, Friday, December 10, 2021, exactly 30 years after the independence referendum of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, now the Republic of Artsakh, is also the first anniversary of the founding of AGBU Germany e.V. Last year, consciously on today's historic day, the first German chapter of AGBU, the world's largest Armenian charity organization, was launched in the capital Berlin.

Our foundation also eventuated a few weeks after the beginning of the Turkish-Azerbaijani war of aggression, which cost the lives of thousands of Armenians, turned several tens of thousands into refugees and has still not ended. Hundreds of prisoners of war are still held hostage by the Azerbaijani dictatorship, and parts of the internationally recognized territory of the Republic of Armenia are under attack and occupation. The painful loss of territory has also uprooted and destroyed livelihoods. The settlement area of the indigenous Armenian population in the mountainous region in Artsakh is now occupied by two groups of people who wanted to destroy the Armenian existence in the Armenian Highlands and in the South Caucasus already a hundred years ago.

Our mother organization AGBU had created itself more than a hundred years ago in a similarly difficult time as a lifeline for many Armenians. This act of creating despite the spreading annihilation, represents an example of Armenian resilience. Drawn by admiration for AGBU's historic achievements and united in appreciation and recognition of its ongoing commitment to preserving Armenian heritage in more than 75 regions of the world, AGBU Germany would like to appeal to the Armenian community in Germany for donations that will benefit the people of Armenia and Artsakh through the AGBU Global Relief Fund.

The **AGBU Global Relief Fund** makes it possible to provide immediate assistance to particularly vulnerable Armenians. Relief efforts include providing food packages, access to medical care, livelihood grants, temporary housing, educational scholarships, and support for unexpected and future needs. On behalf of AGBU Germany e.V., I thank you in advance for your donation to our organization - regardless of the amount.

**President Georgi Ambarzumjan and the Executive Board of AGBU Germany e.V.**