

Khojaly genocide: million signatures – one demand

The heroic and brave sons and daughters of our nation became martyrs in the battles for our land. But the Khojaly tragedy occupies a special place in history. On the one hand, it is the example of devotion of Khojaly residents to their land, nation and Motherland and on the other hand, it is the unprecedented massacre committed by nationalist and barbarian forces of Armenia against Azerbaijan. Therefore, every year, we commemorate the anniversary of Khojaly genocide.

HEYDAR ALIYEV

Preface

The genocide of Azerbaijani nation in Khojaly town became one of the most tragic events of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which had been ideologically, politically and military prepared for many years by Armenian nationalist circles and later on, implemented against Azerbaijan. This crime, committed against the humanity by Armenian militants together with the 366th Motorized Regiment of Soviet Army resulted in severe massacre. Hundreds of peaceful citizens were wounded, tortured, missing and taken prisoner. During this criminal operation carried out by professional military units, the fundamental principles of human rights, as well as rules and morality of war were broken. The town was blockaded at night without any notification. According to a punctilious and barbarously worked out plan, false “corridors” were left for the civil population. The militants positioned in ambushes on both sides of the “corridors” shot peaceful and defenseless people at point-blank range.

Almost 15 years has passed since the Khojaly slaughter, but unfortunately, this event standing amongst the Holocaust, Songmi and Khatin tragedies and witnessed by foreign journalists, has not been worthy estimated by the international community. Though the Milli Majlis (Parliament) of the Azerbaijan Republic adopted a decision on the day of Khojaly genocide, we should acknowledge that the measures taken were insufficient for the recognition of Khojaly genocide in the international scene. President Ilham Aliyev said: “The years passed since the Khojaly genocide proved that our nation and society should be vigilant and unmask the plans of Armenians who have a great experience in disinformation and provocation. The ethnic separatism of Armenian nationalists in Caucasus and the danger of ideology of hatred and terror towards other nations should be revealed. We have much work to do in this

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sphere. Bringing the truth about Azerbaijan realities to the entire world should be our primary goal and implemented more efficiently and systematically”.

Association for Civil Society Development in Azerbaijan declared 2006 year as the year of Karabakh. The Association has done much work in this regard, prepared and published the book of historical realities in Azeri, English and Russian titled “The Khojaly genocide (in documents, facts and foreign media)” and spread it within Azerbaijan and all over the world. In 2006, the Association started the mass campaign of collecting signatures under the demand to recognize internationally the Khojaly genocide by the world community. As a result, 1 million signatures of Azerbaijan citizens were collected.

Taking an opportunity, I would like to appreciate thousands of volunteers who selflessly joined the initiative of the Association and took part in the process of signature collection, as well as all the fellow citizens who affixed their signatures under the document.

I also want to note that these signatures are not only the simple demand. They are at the same time the documents of moral and political and historical-legal vivid evidence of the people who witnessed the Khojaly genocide. Just these signatures are to be spread among the largest libraries and archives of Azerbaijan and foreign countries, including the central libraries of France, Germany, Great Britain and Belgium, as well as the library of US Congress and the UNO, OSCE, EU, CE, International Criminal Court, etc. We believe they will contribute to the restoration of peace and justice.

The process of signature collection has shown once again how painful and actual for our nation the Khojaly genocide problem is. It also proved the need for pursuing greater activity in this area.

This new book introduced to readers is the result of this need. The book includes the official documents on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and Khojaly genocide; the arguments confirming the violation of the international law; the facts of crime and slaughter

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against the humanity; analytical explanations, real observations and other documents. The materials used in the book cover the policy of ethnic purge and terror actions implemented by Armenian chauvinist forces against Azerbaijanis since the beginning of last century; mass deportation of Azerbaijan people from Armenia; the analytical comments of international organizations regarding the recognition of Khojaly genocide and other historical-legal documents.

Our basic aim is to inform the world about the voice of justice of a million of our citizens and help the Milli Majlis with the restoration of our rights, move forward to the recognition of Khojaly genocide by the international organizations and parliaments of foreign states and seek after deserved punishment of the criminals. We are confident that recognition of Khojaly genocide as the matter of both historical-legal and moral-political responsibility will prevent the similar tragedies in the future.

Elkhan Suleymanov

*The president of Association for Civil Society
Development in Azerbaijan*

**APPEAL TO THE NATION ON
THE ANNIVERSARY OF
KHOJALY GENOCIDE**

Dear fellow-countrymen!

Dear compatriots!

I am addressing you today on the occasion of the Khojaly genocide, the painful and bitter page in the history of our people, and one of the most brutal and merciless mass terrorist acts against humanity. On 26 February 1992, our nation experienced one of the heaviest and sorrowful moments in its fate. That day, the ancient Azerbaijani town of Khojaly was razed to the ground by Armenian armed forces. Without any necessity to use military force, they subjected thousands of peaceful residents including children, old people and women to tortures, and killed them with unprecedented cruelty.

At the end of the 20th century, one of the gravest crimes targeted to not only Azerbaijani people but also the whole mankind was committed. The Khojaly tragedy occupies a special place among crimes against humanity as one of the most brutal and merciless.

The Khojaly tragedy was not an accidental event. It was a part of the policy of genocide and ethnic purge pursued by aggressive Armenian nationalists against Azerbaijani people over twenty hundred years. Supported by Armenian lobby, this policy was pursued at all times by military, economic, ideological and cultural means.

At the end of 80s of the last century, Armenian territorial claims led to a large-scale military conflict. As a result of this guileful policy, Azerbaijanis were ousted from their native lands, with hundreds of thousands of people becoming refugee and internally displaced.

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By committing the monstrous Khojaly crime, the Armenians were purposing far-reaching tactical aims. That was their attempt to intimidate our people, undermine their fighting spirit and make them put up with loss of our historical lands. However, the insidious enemy failed to reach the goal.

Our nation has become even more steadfast in the fight for sovereignty and territorial integrity of the state by demonstrating a true courage and heroism.

In spite of large scale and heaviness of the tragedy, those who were in power at that time did not timely informed international organizations and global community about this bloody crime, they did not sound the alarm, on the contrary, having been frightened of the people's anger and loss of power, they concealed the truth from the nation. Meanwhile, those who were in opposition took advantage of the nation-wide sorrow to come to power.

Only after Heydar Aliyev came to power, this bloody crime was given a political and legal appraisal, and measures directed to its recognition as genocide by the world states and international organizations were taken.

Today, the leadership of Azerbaijan is making successive efforts aimed at settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in accordance with the principles of international law, restoration of territorial integrity and sovereignty of our country, return of refugees and internally displaced people to their homes.

International organizations, as well as the world's leading countries are now much better informed on the roots, causes and consequences of the conflict, and recognize fair position of Azerbaijan. Today, the Khojaly tragedy is discussed by those countries' parliaments and public. A number of international organizations, leaders and parliaments of influential states confirm that Armenia is a state-aggressor, and urge the country to release occupied Azerbaijan territories.

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The experience gained over the years passed since the Khojaly tragedy shows that our people and public of the country should be watchful to unmask plans of the Armenians who are very well experienced in spreading misinformation and taking provocative steps. It is necessary to unmask and demonstrate the threat of ethnic separatism and ideology of hatred and terror towards other nations pursued by Armenia and Armenian nationalists in the Caucasian region posed to the whole humanity.

We have much to do in this sphere. We should more effectively and successively bring the truth about Azerbaijan to the world. Our compatriots, who are gradually strengthening their positions abroad, must take direct and active part in this matter striving for adequate evaluation of the events like Khojaly genocide in the countries of their residence.

I believe that existence and gradual development of independent, powerful and democratic Azerbaijan may serve as a tribute to the memory of Khojaly shehids (martyrs).

I want once again to commemorate heroes and shehids from Khojaly - may Allah rest their souls in peace - and offer my deepest condolence to the people of Azerbaijan.

Ilham Aliyev

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Baku, 23 February 2005

APPEAL

**To the UN Security Council
To the Active Chairman of OSCE
To the Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe
To the US Congress
To the Parliament of Great Britain
To the Parliament of France
To the State Duma of Russian Federation
To the Great Milli Majlis of Turkey
To the Parliaments of World states**

Armenian armed forces and separatist terrorist groups of Nagorno Karabakh of Armenian origin carried out the unprecedented Khojaly genocide against Azerbaijan nation with the help of 366th Motorized Infantry Regiment of former USSR, located in Khankandy, on the night of 25 February, 1992. Armenians inflicted violent reprisals to the population of Khojaly. Hundreds of people, including the aged, women and children were brutally murdered, captured and taken hostage. The town was looted. The offenders prevented Khojaly population from leaving the town during the invasion. Horrible shots, recorded by teleoperators several days after the event and reports of local and foreign journalists made the world feel deep sorrow. Thus, tens of corpses of aged people, women, and children were scalped and their bodies were cut to pieces. Their faces were disfigured by bullets and butts of submachine guns. These murderous acts reveal the real essence of “Armenians’ right to self-determination”.

Being a new stage of purposeful reactionary policy of Armenian invaders against the state independence and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijan Republic, this mass and inhuman massacre will remain the black spot in the history of mankind with its inadmissible brutality and inhuman methods.

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Contradictory to mental and religious values and alien to military principles morality formed for thousand years, the Khojaly genocide directed to the annihilation of peaceful population is considered the greatest and the most horrible tragedy of mankind at the end of last century. The echo of Khojaly tragedy as an act of genocide will sound in the ears over history. The Khojaly tragedy is also a bloody page of ethnical purge and genocide policy conducted by Armenian nationalists against our nation.

People, applying inadmissible violence against peaceful Azerbaijani population during invasion of Khojaly and roughly breaking the requirements of the Geneva Convention (articles 2, 3, 5, 9) and 17 of the “General Declaration on human rights”, as well as the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict and the Convention on ”Prevention and Punishment of Crime of Genocide” have not suffered punishment up to now. Moreover, the feeling of impunity creates the ground for new crimes.

Armenia does not deviate from the committed atrocities, on the contrary, it boldly justifies the genocide committed against Azerbaijanis. Besides, people who had committed this tragedy are posed as national heroes. Evident anti-Azerbaijani policy is pursued in Armenia. Ideological grounds are established on a world scale for invasion of new Azerbaijan territories. Falsified Armenian history is raised to the level of state policy to create background for young Armenians’ chauvinist spirit.

We call on Armenia to meet elementary legal norms, keep the feeling of reality and make steps towards acceptable alternatives of the conflict settlement. President of the Azerbaijan Republic Ilham Aliyev states that negotiations can not continue endlessly: “We should do everything for recognition and denouncement by parliaments of the world states and international organizations of the aggression and genocide against Azerbaijani nation by Armenians... We want to live in peace, develop our country, restore historical

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justice and reality, as well as gain acknowledgment and unmask the people, implementing the invasion and genocide policy”.

Terrorism became the strategy number 1 of political tactics of Armenian state and besides, it turned from methodology into ideology in XX century. We do not doubt that this issue will be soon disclosed at the highest tribunals of the global world. The names of Armenian terrorist organizations and their crimes will be cited among international terrorist organizations.

Today, the Azerbaijan administration is making systematic efforts for settlement of Armenian- Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, restoration of territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country and repatriation of refugees and IDPs to their native land due to international legal norms. International organizations and leading states are increasingly informed on roots, reasons and results of the conflicts and support fair position of Azerbaijan. Today, Khojaly tragedy is discussed in the parliaments of leading states and its details are being clarified to the global community. A number of international organizations, leaders and parliaments of authoritative states confirm that Armenia is an invasive and aggressor state and they demand to quit the invaded Azerbaijani territories.

Life, history and the reality of passed years helps us to conclude that, pain of any nation exposed to terror and disaster should alarm all the people settled in various corners of the world independently of a place they live, religion they practice, and language they speak. They should grieve equally with the nation exposed to genocide and struggle together to eliminate this terrible disaster.

We should note that, the Association for Civil Society Development in Azerbaijan uniting tens of leading non-governmental organizations collected in 2006 the signatures of one million citizens of the Azerbaijan Republic demanding recognition of Khojaly events as a genocide act. Taking them into consideration, we – ASSOCIATION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT IN

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AZERBAIJAN request you to render us assistance in acknowledgement of Khojaly massacre – the malicious tragedy and bright sample of Armenian vandalism - as genocide. We bring to your notice that no state is insured from terror and such kind of genocide by a state, practicing terror and aggression to its state policy. Therefore, it is very important to give even belated evaluation of the genocide committed in Khojaly. It will relatively console hundreds of disabled people and those who lost their relatives in Khojaly and serve as warning for other states supporting aggression.

Association for Civil Society Development in Azerbaijan

**THE LIST OF THE CHILDREN AND ADULTS,
WOMEN, GIRLS AND
THE ELDERLY KILLED, TAKEN HOSTAGE
AND MISSING DURING
THE KHOJALY GENOCIDE**

1. Abishova Chinara Nazim qizi (1982)
2. Abishov Chingiz Nazim oglu (1986)
3. Usubov Elshad Kamran oglu (1974)
4. Allahverdiyev Mahir Novruz oglu (1974)
5. Yusifova Natavan Panah qizi (1988)
6. Quliyeva Parvana Qaryagdi qizi (1979)
7. Quliyeva Ravana Qaryagdi qizi (1982)
8. Quliyev Shukur Qaryagdi oglu (1985)
9. Quliyeva Sevinc Akbar qizi (1985)
10. Orucova Xayala Telman qizi (1986)
11. Agayarov Nabi İsaq oglu (1981)
12. Agayarova Sevinc İsaq qizi (1985)
13. Agayarov Romal İsaq oglu (1986)
14. Cafarov Nusrat Fazil oglu (1975)
15. Aliyev Elchin Firdovsi oglu (1982)
16. Aliyev Elgiz Firdovsi oglu (1985)
17. Qambarova Esmira Safar qizi (1985)
18. Qambarov Emin Safar oglu (1986)
19. Huseynova Maral Kamil qizi (1986)
20. Azimov Natiq Abbasqulu oglu (1986)
21. Quliyev Samir Taleh oglu (1990)
22. Alakbarov Saxavat Tavvakkul oglu (1980)
23. Xalilova Lala Tahir qizi (1988)
24. Zeynalova Aynura Tofiq qizi (1986)
25. Humbatova Simuzar Calil qizi (1976)
26. Quliyev Mikayil Zahid oglu (1975)
27. Huseynova Nasiba Huseyn qizi (1982)

28. Chobanova Nazakat Tapdiq qizi (1986)
29. Safiyev Sarvan Elxan oglu (1991)
30. Amirova Yegana Tavakkul qizi (1985)
31. Huseynov Racab Elxan oglu (1985)
32. Huseynova Shabnam Elxan qizi (1986)
33. Huseynov Mahsar Elxan oglu (1991)
34. Hasanov Elgun Nazim oglu (1987)
35. Hasanova Aygun Nazim qizi (1991)
36. Agayev Allahverdi Sattar oglu (1982)
37. Mammadov Niyamaddin Vaqif oglu (1978)
38. Orucov Cavan Canan oglu (1976)
39. Aliyev Sabuhi Cahangir oglu (1978)
40. Aliyev Salim Cahangir oglu (1985)
41. Cafarov Samir Tacir oglu (1987)
42. Aslanova Elnara Tofiq qizi (1978)
43. Orucova Malahat Ali qizi (1976)
44. Mehdiyeva Aysel Murad qizi (1987)
45. Mehdiyeva Gulmira Murad qizi (1989)
46. Valiyev Agasif Zakir oglu (1988)
47. Nishana Khojaly (1990)
48. Mehdiyeva Gulmira Murad qizi (1989)
49. Hasanov Mehdi Ramil oglu (1974)
50. Hasanova Latafat Hasan qizi (1976)
51. Allahverdiyev Bahram Hidayat oglu (1976)
52. Humatova Anahid Eldar qizi (1975)
53. Abbasova Saadat Qadim qizi (1974)
54. Huseynov Emin Aleksandr oglu (1975)
55. Aslanova Gulsabah Qayyum qizi (1973)
56. Huseynov Vuqar Hilal oglu (1974)
57. İsmayilov Vidadi Latif oglu (1973)
58. Salimov Khazar Sayavush oglu (1985)
59. Shahverdiyev Vuqar Mammad oglu (1974)
60. Abdulov Zahid Yelmar oglu (1974)

61. Alakbarov Aydin Tavakkul oglu (1988)
62. Aliyev Elshan Abil oglu (1987)
63. İbrahimova Fatma (1990)
64. İsmayilova Nuriyya Qachay qizi (1986)
65. Mammadov Ceyhun Vaqif oglu (1975)
66. Mammadov Shohrat Mammad oglu (1978)
67. Mammadov Zahir Ramiz oglu (1975)
68. Novruzova Rahila Novruz qizi (1975)
69. Novruzova Rubaba Novruz qizi (1977)
70. Orucov Fazil Anvar oglu (1981)
71. Khalilav Arzu Khalil oglu (1977)
72. Khalilav Araz Khalil oglu (1984)
73. Hasanova Khayala Eldar qizi (1987)
74. Hasanov Tacir Eldar oglu (1990)
75. Jafarova Pari Mukhtar qizi (1986)
76. Abbasova Elnara Tofiq qizi (1977)
77. Abbasova Antiqa Heydar qizi (1935)
78. Abbasova Sugra Alish qizi (1917)
79. Abbasova Hamayil Canish qizi (1940)
80. Abdullayeva Malahat Mahish qizi
81. Abdullayeva Maya Salah qizi (1911)
82. Abdullayeva Latafat Hasan qizi (1975)
83. Abdullayeva Sevinc Sarhad qizi (1986)
84. Abdinova Samira İmamverdi qizi
85. Abdinova Rahida Mikayil qizi
86. Abishova Khazangul Ali qizi
87. Abishova Maruza Mahammad qizi (1930)
88. Abishova Latifa Babirkhan qizi
89. Abishova Madina Babirkhan qizi (1908)
90. Abishova Minara Rahim qizi (1910)
91. Abishova Mahbuba Qurban qizi (1960)
92. Abishova Gulzar Gulali qizi (1964)
93. Agayarova Zuleykha Yunis qizi (1965)

94. Agayarova Sevinc İsaq qizi (1985)
95. Agayarova Gullu Surkhay qizi (1934)
96. Aliyeva Gulcahan Bashir qizi
97. Allahverdiyeva Valida Astan qizi (1963)
98. Allahverdiyeva İrada Astan qizi (1965)
99. Allahverdiyeva Teyba Nabi qizi (1933)
100. Allahverdiyeva Qamza Qarash qizi (1940)
101. Allahverdiyeva Shafiqə Zeynal qizi (1969)
102. Allahverdiyeva Banovsha İsmayil qizi
103. Allahverdiyeva Gulnara Teymur qizi
104. Allahverdiyeva Gulara Teymur qizi
105. Allahverdiyeva Nazla Vali qizi
106. Allahverdiyeva Kifayat Huseynali qizi (1942)
107. Allahverdiyeva Yegana Naib qizi
108. Allahyarova Farida Maharram qizi
109. Allahyarova Kifayat Museyib qizi
110. Allahverdiyeva Teyyuba Nabi qizi (1952)
111. Allahyarova Zamina Museyib qizi
112. Allahyarova Sadaqat Museyib qizi
113. Alpaniyeva Zarifa Aga qizi
114. Alkhanova Sevinj Sahib qizi
115. Aslanova Gulsabah Qayyum qizi (1972)
116. Aslanova Elnara Tofiq qizi (1978)
117. Babayeva Qahira Mukhtar qizi (1938)
118. Babayeva Tofiqə
119. Bagirova Zahra Sari qizi (1920)
120. Bagirova Halima Alish qizi
121. Bagirova Naila Hasan qizi (1956)
122. Behbudova Gulnaz Yusif qizi (1962)
123. Behbudova Surayya İbrahim qizi (1920)
124. Behbudova Gulbahar Yusif qizi (1968)
125. Bashirova Ruqiyya İfrat qizi
126. Rahmanova Dilara Maharram qizi (1950)

127. Bashirova Ülviyya İfrat qizi
128. Valiyeva Guldana Zakir qizi (1989)
129. Valiyeva Zahra Alabbas qizi
130. Valiyeva Nazila Kamil qizi (1966)
131. Valiyeva Aziza Aliabbas qizi
132. Qasimova Rasmiyya Aga qizi
133. Qasimova Huriyya Avaz qizi
134. Qasimova Sakina Ali qizi
135. Qahramanova Raya Qabil qizi
136. Qahramanova Elnara Tavakkul qizi
137. Qahramanova Gulnara Tavakkul qizi
138. Qanbarova Matanat Haji qizi (1967)
139. Qanbarova Esmira Safar qizi (1985)
140. Qanbarova Valida Garay qizi (1941)
141. Quliyeva Zohra Latif qizi (1968)
142. Quliyeva Ravana Qaryagdi qizi (1979)
143. Quliyeva Nurana Qaryagdi qizi (1981)
144. Quliyeva Sara Huseyn qizi (1955)
145. Quliyeva Shura Shamil (1936)
146. Quliyeva Sevinj Akbar qizi (1985)
147. Quliyeva Kubra Aydin qizi
148. Quliyeva Sahiba Abbas qizi
149. Quliyeva Makhmar Khanlar qizi (1930)
150. Quliyeva Vasila Zahid qizi
151. Quliyeva Ruba Haji qizi (1936)
152. Azimov Hasanbala Shahmar oglu (1935)
153. Azimova Parvana Huseyn qizi (1937)
154. Azizova Zarifa Alakbar qizi (1953)
155. Azimova Dilara Seydulla qizi (1956)
156. Azizova Zarif Nariman qizi
157. Azimova Antiqa Anvar qizi
158. Alakbarova Zeynab Jumshud qizi (1923)
159. Ayyubova Lamiya Ali

160. Ayyubova Leyla Ali qizi
161. Aliyeva Khavar Yusif qizi (1957)
162. Aliyeva Svetlana Javanshir qizi (1957)
163. Aliyeva Surayya Bayram qizi (1934)
164. Aliyeva Heyran Murshud qizi (1962)
165. Aliyeva Surayya Behbud qizi (1933)
166. Aliyeva Aygun Rahim qizi
167. Aliyeva Rahila Ahmad qizi
168. Aliyeva Ruskhara Aliyar qizi
169. Aliyeva Mahi Qabil qizi
170. Aliyeva Chichak Alakbar qizi (1931)
171. Aliyeva Dilara Anvar qizi (1939)
172. Aliyeva Yegana Maharram qizi
173. Aliyeva Saadat Firdovsi qizi
174. Aliyeva Sariyya Firdovsi qizi
175. Aliyeva Kubra Elman qizi
176. Aliyeva Rahila Humbat qizi
177. Aliyeva Sahar Charkaz qizi (1922)
178. Amirova Maya Qabil qizi (1962)
179. Amirova Yegana Tavakkul qizi (1986)
180. Amirova Raya Qabil qizi (1959)
181. Amraliyeva Aynura Rashid qizi
182. Amraliyeva Adila Ali qizi
183. Ahmadova Durna Salman qizi (1912)
184. Ahmadova Zibeyda Badal qizi (1928)
185. Ahmadova Surayya Javad qizi (1962)
186. Ahmadova Chichak Savalan qizi
187. Ahmadova Sarvinaz Ahmad qizi (1900)
188. Ahmadova Khanim Farhad qizi
189. Zamanova Nurida Novruz qizi
190. Zamanova Khalida Novruz qizi
191. Zamanova Firuza Firudin qizi
192. Zeynalova Aynura Tofiq qizi (1986)

193. İbrahimova Fatma (1990)
194. İsmayilova Manzar Mashadi qizi (1908)
195. İsmayilova Shovkat Oruj qizi (1940)
196. İsmayilova Matanat Akif qizi
197. İsmayilova Nargiz Huseyn qizi
198. İsmayilova Nuriyya Qachay qizi (1986)
199. İsmayilova Gultakin Seymur qizi
200. İsmayilova Aytakin Seymur qizi
201. İsmayilova Aybaniz Seymur qizi
202. Karimova Samran Alish qizi
203. Karimova Hamayil Alish qizi
204. Karimova Atraba Huseyn qizi
205. Karimova Firangul Qurban qizi (1934)
206. Mahmudova Roza Safar qizi (1930)
207. Mehdiyeva Aysel Murad qizi (1987)
208. Mehdiyeva Gulmira Murad qizi (1989)
209. Mehraliyeva Basira Vali qizi
210. Mehraliyeva Gulzar Gulali qizi (1970)
211. Mammadova Afila İbrahim qizi (1949)
212. Mammadova Gullu Abdul qizi (1925)
213. Mammadova Maleyka Atash qizi (1933)
214. Mammadova Samaya İsa qizi
215. Mammadova Parvana Jamal qizi
216. Mammadova Banu Ahmad qizi
217. Mammadova Sevil Huseyn qizi(1971)
218. Mammadova Aybaniz Asif qizi
219. Mammadova Gulkhanim İbrahim qizi
220. Mammadova Gulara Agali qizi
221. Mammadova Saltanat Zulal qizi
222. Mammadova Shovkat Eybat qizi (1963)
223. Mammadova Latafat Eyvad qizi
224. Mammadova Maruza
225. Mammadova Tamara Salim qizi

226. Mammadova Qarina Tahir qizi
227. Mammadova Zanira Karim qizi
228. Mammadova Roza Safar qizi
229. Mammadova Aysel Murad qizi
230. Mirzayeva Latifa Kamal qizi
231. Mirzayeva Gulshan Shamil qizi
232. Mirzayeva Sevinj Shamil qizi
233. Mirzayeva Sahila Shamil qizi
234. Mirzayeva Aytakin Eldar qizi
235. Maharramova Rahila Arif qizi
236. Maharramova Nazli Vali qizi (1953)
237. Muradova Nurida Kazim qizi (1931)
238. Mustafayeva Yakhshi Mehdiqulu qizi (1900)
239. Nagiyeva Surayya İmran qizi
240. Nagiyeva Sara Ramiz qizi (1969)
241. Nabiyeva Sara Akbar qizi (1967)
242. Nabiyeva Sakina Nabatali qizi (1930)
243. Nasirova Tatyana Dmitriyevna (1952)
244. Najafova Zohra Mammad qizi
245. Nishana Khojaly (1990)
246. Novruzova Adila Mahammad qizi (1937)
247. Novruzova Rahila Novruz qizi (1975)
248. Novruzova Rubaba Novruz qizi (1977)
249. Nuriyeva Dilara Oruj qizi
250. Nurmammadova Pakiza İslam qizi (1936)
251. Orujova İzafa Ali qizi (1965)
252. Orujova Malahat Ali qizi (1975)
253. Orujova Khayala Telman qizi (1986)
254. Orujova Natavan Nabi qizi (1989)
255. Orucova Vatan Habib qizi
256. Orujova Gozal Heydar qizi (1931)
257. Rustamova Zivar Allahhuseyn qizi
258. Rustamova Jeyran İmran qizi

259. Sadiqova Chichak Jalil qizi (1928)
260. Salahova Zahra Alabbas qizi (1932)
261. Salmanova Dilara Salman qizi
262. Salimova Adila Allahverdi qizi (1930)
263. Salimova Tamilla Agamirza qizi (1936)
264. Safarova Pari Mukhtar qizi (1930)
265. Safiyeva Gozal Vali qizi (1923)
266. Tagiyeva Makhmar Alish qizi
267. Tagiyeva Narmina Alish qizi
268. Talibova Agja Allhan qizi
269. Usubova Sharqiyya Usub qizi (1948)
270. Farzaliyeva Qutaba Mazahir qizi
271. Farzaliyeva Huru Mazahir qizi
272. Khanlarova Shafiqa Rahim qizi
273. Khalilova Lala Tahir qizi (1978)
274. Khudayarova Surayya Alish qizi (1916)
275. Khudayarova Matanat Kamal qizi
276. Khudayarova Sona Mahammad qizi
277. Haqverdiyeva Havva Zeynalabdin qizi (1927)
278. Hamanova Gulchohra
279. Hamdiyeva Mehriban Rajab qizi (1954)
280. Hamidova Kifayat Oruj qizi
281. Hamidova Kifayat Chiraq qizi (1955)
282. Halili Malahat Abbas qizi (1955)
283. Hasanova Tofiqqa Hasan qizi (1955)
284. Hasanova Mehriban Allahverdi qizi
285. Hasanova Rafiqqa Huseyn qizi
286. Hasanova Aygun Nazim qizi (1991)
287. Hasanova Fitat Ahmad qizi (1940)
288. Hasanova Goychak Heydar qizi (1933)
289. Hasanova Latafat Hasan qizi (1976)
290. Hasanova Rubaba Kochari qizi
291. Hasanova Aynur Elkhan qizi

292. Hasanova Nurana Elkhan qizi
293. Hasanova Gunash Abdul qizi (1910)
294. Hasanova Makhmar Alakbar qizi (1942)
295. Hasanova Sevil Ayyub qizi (1961)
296. Hasanova Gulchohra Yaqub qizi (1968)
297. Hasanova Afıqa
298. Hashimova Shovkat Shukur qizi (1943)
299. Humbatova Firuza Musa qizi (1934)
300. Humbatova Sevil Jalil qizi (1967)
301. Humbatova Simuzar Jalil qizi (1976)
302. Huseynova Zinyat Yunis qizi (1940)
303. Huseynova Maral Kamil qizi (1985)
304. Huseynova Shabnam Elkhan qizi (1986)
305. Huseynova Rasmıyya Aleksandr qizi (1968)
306. Huseynova Saadat Qadim qizi (1974)
307. Huseynova Zahra İsmayil qizi
308. Huseynova Mahbuba Eldar qizi
309. Husenova Afarim Yusif qizi
310. Huseynova Shovkat Oruj qizi
311. Huseynova Rafıqa Javanshir qizi
312. Huseynova Atraba Jabrayil qizi (1932)
313. Huseynova Qizbas Mardan qizi (1936)
314. Huseynova Nargiz Jabrayil qizi (1963)
315. Huseynova Makhmar Qurban qizi (1949)
316. Huseynova Sara Safar qizi (1964)
317. Huseynova Shakar Eldar qizi
318. Huseynova Emma Huseyn qizi (1969)
319. Huseynova Khoshbakht Huseyn qizi (1963)
320. Huseynova Susan Huseyn qizi (1971)
321. Huseynova Nasiba Huseyn qizi (1982)
322. Huseynova Aziza Alish qizi (1956)
323. Huseynova Qatiba Mirsiyab qizi (1952)
324. Huseynova Novrasta Farmayil qizi (1922)

325. Huseynova Mehriban Allahverdi qizi (1965)
326. Chobanova Nazakat Tapdiq qizi (1984)
327. Jabbarova Khanim Ali qizi
328. Jabbarova İrada Aslan qizi
329. Jahangirova Sariyya Cahangir qizi
330. Jahangirova Solmaz Jahangir qizi
331. Jabrayilova Jahan
332. Jabrayilova Samaya Sari qizi (1950)
333. Jafarova Rafiq İman qizi (1937)
334. Jafarova Khazangul Ali qizi (1951)
335. Jafarova Bagdad Hatam qizi (1910)
336. Jafarova Banovsha Ali qizi
337. Shirinova Sahila Akif qizi
338. Shirinova İrada Akif qizi
339. Shukurova Antiq İsfandiyar qizi (1934)
340. Abbasov Salah İsmayil oğlu (1909)
341. Abbasova Sugra Alish qizi (1917)
342. Abdullayev Yusif Qoja oğlu (1932)
343. Abdinov Seymur Imamverdi oğlu (1930)
344. Abishov Ali Abdul oğlu (1918)
345. Abishova Maruza Mahammad qizi (1930)
346. Abishova Madina Babirkhan qizi (1908)
347. Abishova Minara Rahim qizi (1910)
348. Abishova Maryam Mashadi qizi (1932)
349. Allahverdiyev Salah İmamqulu oğlu (1918)
350. Allahverdiyev Mamush Bahram oğlu (1923)
351. Allahverdiyeva Teyba Nabi qizi (1933)
352. Agayarov Sadiq Shirkhan oğlu (1932)
353. Agayarova Gullu Surkhay qizi (1934)
354. Aslanov Qulu Bahram oğlu (1927)
355. Boranov Maqsud Ali oğlu (1928)
356. Bidzinov Zeynal Mammad oğlu (1926)
357. Butko Dmitri Nikolayevich (1930)

358. Qasimov Anvar Bahadur oğlu (1925)
359. Quliyev Zakara Qamış oğlu (1932)
360. Quliyev Şahbaz Mursal oğlu (1925)
361. Quliyeva Şura Şamil (1936)
362. Quliyeva Ruba Hacı qızı (1936)
363. Aliyev Ayyub Sari oğlu (1928)
364. Aliyev İslam Abdulali oğlu (1913)
365. Aliyeva Surayya Bayram qızı (1934)
366. Aliyeva Surayya Behbud qızı (1933)
367. Aliyeva Chichak Alakbar qızı (1931)
368. Aliyeva Sahar Çarkaz qızı (1922)
369. Ahmadov Eldar Naib oğlu (1935)
370. Azimova Parvana Huseyn qızı (1937)
371. Ahmadova Durna Salman qızı (1912)
372. Ahmadova Zibeyda Badal qızı (1928)
373. Ahmadova Sarvinaz Ahmad qızı (1900)
374. Zamanov Novruz Qulu oğlu (1936)
375. İmani Agayar Salman oğlu (1926)
376. İmani Agababa (1910)
377. İsmayilova Manzar Mashadi qızı (1908)
378. Karimov Samran Soltan oğlu (1924)
379. Karimov Rashid Rahim oğlu (1922)
380. Karimova Firangul Qurban qızı (1934)
381. Karimova Firangiz Mutallim qızı (1930)
382. Mammadov Safarali Mehdi oğlu (1918)
383. Mammadov Saday Suleyman oğlu (1936)
384. Mammadov Baylar Khanlar oğlu (1935)
385. Mammadova Gullu Abdul qızı (1925)
386. Mammadova Maleyka Atash qızı (1933)
387. Mahmudova Roza Safar qızı (1930)
388. Mamışov Talış Huseyn oğlu (1921)
389. Mammadov Talış İmran oğlu (1934)
390. Mammadov Mammad Qadir oğlu (1935)

391. Orujova Gozal Heydar qizi (1931)
392. Sadiqov Avaz Asif oglu (1929)
393. Salahov Mahammad Abdul oglu (1931)
394. Salimov Bahadur Mikayil oglu (1928)
395. Salimov Seydi Mikayil oglu (1934)
396. Salimova Adila Allahverdi qizi (1930)
397. Salimova Tamilla Agamirza qizi (1936)
398. Safarova Pari Mukhtar qizi (1930)
399. Safiyeva Gozal Vali qizi (1923)
400. Talibov Rahim Khudaverdi oglu (1908)
401. Hasanov Hasan İbrahim oglu (1933)
402. Hasanov Ali Mursal oglu (1936)
403. Humbatova Fırzuza Musa qizi (1934)
404. Humbatov Talish İsgandar oglu(1931)
405. Huseynov Huseyn Faraj oglu (1936)
406. Huseynov Murshud Samad oglu (1934)
407. Huseynov Mirsiyab Hazratqulu oglu (1922)
408. Huseynov Huseyn İsmayil oglu (1934)
409. Huseynova Minash Jumshud qizi (1934)
410. Huseynova Atraba Jabraiyl qizi (1932)
411. Huseynova Qizbas Mardan qizi (1936)
412. Huseynova Novrasta Farmayil qizi (1922)
413. Hasanova Goychak Heydar qizi (1933)
414. Hasanova Gunash Abdul qizi (1910)
415. Farzaliyev Qadim Farzali oglu (1933)
416. Jafarov Museyib Safiyar oglu (1895)
417. Jafarov Mahammad Valikishi oglu (1895)
418. Jafarova Bagdad Hatam qizi (1910)
419. Shukurova Antiqa İsfandiyar qizi (1934)
420. Shahveranov Maharram Chovdar oglu (1930)
421. Nagiyev Yusif shirin oglu (1928)
422. Nabyev Hasan Qarash oglu (1930)
423. Khudayarova Surayya Alish qizi (1916)

KHOJALY

February 26, 1992 seemed like a regular working day. Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati was back in town to finally bestow diplomatic recognition on Azerbaijan, as well as to respond to American Secretary of State James Baker's recent comments about the growing threat of Iranian influence in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

It was not the Islamic Republic of Iran that posed any threat to the region, intoned the wiry Iranian emissary, but the United States America. In addition to being the country responsible for the continued bloodshed throughout the world, it was the US that actively fomented conflict in Karabakh. The Islamic Republic, in contrast, was a country interested in peace between nations and peoples. To that end, Dr. Velayati had brought a peace plan for the increasingly bloody and senseless conflict in Karabakh-and one both Armenia and Azerbaijan had agreed to sign. He himself planned to visit Karabakh the next day.

This was newsworthy, and I was getting ready to file a story on the subject to the Washington Post when Hijran came rushing into my work room. She had been on the telephone with the information section of the Popular Front, and had some very distressing news: sources in Agdam were reporting a stream of Azeri refugees from Karabakh filling the streets of the city, fleeing a massive attack.

There had been many exaggerated reports about the conflict germinated from both sides, and perhaps this was just another, but I thought it best to start working the phone. Strangely, no one in government answered. Perhaps they were all at the Gulistan complex, having dinner with the Iranian delegation. So I waited for a while, and then started calling people at home. Around midnight, I got through to Vafa Guluzade.

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"Sorry for calling so late," I apologized. "But what about this rumor--". "I can't talk about it," said Vafa, cutting me off and hanging up.

A sense of unease filled my gut. Vafa was usually polite to a fault. Perhaps he was sleeping? I decided to call again anyway, but the number stayed busy for the next half hour. Maybe he left it off the hook, I thought, and made one last effort and the call rang through.

"Vafa," I said, apologizing again. "What is going on?"

"Something very terrible has happened," he groaned.

"What?" I demanded.

"There has been a massacre," he said.

"Where?"

"In Karabakh, a town called Khojaly," he said, and then he hung up the phone again.

Khojaly

I had been there before. Twice, in fact. The first time was in September, when we had staked out the airport waiting for Boris Yeltsin to come through. The last time had been a month before, in January, 1992. By then the only way to get to Khojaly was by helicopter because the Armenians had severed the road link to Agdam. I remembered that little adventure all too well. Doubting the many reports from the Armenian side that the Azeris were massively armed and that their helicopters were 'buzzing' Armenian villages in the territory for fun and terror, I had traveled out to Agdam with Hugh Pope of the (London) Independent to chat with refugees about their situation.

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Refugees were easy to find at Agdam. They were all over the place. The heaviest concentration was at the local airfield for the simple reason that many of the refugees didn't want to be refugees anymore: they were going back to their homes in Khojaly. Their pride had silenced their better sense. One was a 35-year old mother of four by the name of Zumrut Ezova. When I asked why she was returning, she said it was better 'to die in Karabakh' than beg in the streets of Agdam.

"Why can't the government open the road?" shouted Zumrut in my ear over the roar of the nearby chopper's engines, "Why are they making us fly in like ducks, ready to get shot?"

I didn't have an answer.

Then someone was lurching toward me from across the airfield. It was Alef Hajiev, the commander of airport security at Khojaly and the gentleman who had saved us from the Agdam drunks during the Yeltsin visit three months before. He had been pretty chipper then, but despite his broad smile for me, he was no longer fun and games. I asked him what the situation was in his hometown.

"Come on," said Hajiev. "Let's go to Khojaly - then you can see for yourself, and write the truth if you dare."

Behind him stood a MI-8 helicopter, its blades slowly turning. A mass of refugees were clawing their way aboard. The chopper was already dangerously overloaded with humanity and food-stuff, and waiting on the tarmac was even more luggage, including a rusted, 70mm cannon and diverse boxes of ammunition.

"I'm not going," said Pope, "I've got a wife and kids."

The rotor began to twirl faster, and I had to decide quickly.

"See you later," I said, wondering if I ever would.

I got aboard, one of more than 50 people on a craft designed for 24, in addition to the various munitions and provisions. I thought to myself: this is insane; there is still time to get off. Then it was too late. With a lurch, we lifted off the ground and my stomach smashed

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through my ears. I could see Pope waving at me while walking away from the field, and wished I was with him on terra firma. The MI-8 cork-screwed up to its flight altitude of 3500 feet-high enough to sail over the Askeran Gap to Khojaly and avoid Armenian ground fire. Two dozen helicopters had been hit over the past two months, including the crash/kill not only the one filled with officials in November, but another 'bird' a week before. The machine we were flying in had picked up a round through the fuel tank the week before, the flight engineer told me. It was lucky that fuel was low and the bullet came in high. This was all very reassuring to learn as we plugged on through the Askeran Gap, bucking into head-winds and sleet.

Through breaks in the cloud cover I could see trucks and automobiles driving the roads below-Armenian machines, fueled by gas and diesel brought in via their own air-bridge from Armenia (or purchased from Azeri war profiteers). Finally and mercifully, after a trip that seemed to take hours, but really only lasted maybe 20 minutes, we began our corkscrew descent to the Khojaly airfield. No-one who has not been aboard such a flight can appreciate what I felt when the wheels touched ground.

I am alive! I wanted to shout, but thought it most appropriate to stay cool and act like I did such things twice a day.

"How do you feel?" Alef Hajiev asked me.

"Normalno," I lied in Russian, cool as cake.

Meanwhile, the chopper was mobbed by residents-some coming to greet loved ones who had returned; others trying to be the first aboard the helicopter when it went back up and out. All were there to get the most recent news from the rest of Azerbaijan: newspapers, gossip, rumors.

The reason for the excitement was pretty obvious: there were no working phones in Khojaly, no working anything: no electricity, no heating oil and no running water. The only link with the outside world was the helicopter-and those were under threat with each run.

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The isolation of the place became all too apparent as night fell. I joined Hajiev and some of his men in the make-shift mess hall of the tiny garrison, and while we dined on Soviet army SPAM with raw onions and stale bread to flickering candle light, he gave me what might be called a front-line briefing.

The situation was bad and getting worse, a depressed Hajiev told me. The Armenians had taken all the outlying villages, one by one, over the past three months. Only two towns remained in Azeri hands: Khojaly and Shusha, and the road between them was cut. While I knew the situation was deteriorating, I had no idea it was so bad.

"It is because you believe what they say in Baku," Alef chortled. "We are being sold-out, utterly."

Baku could open the road to Agdam in a day if the government wanted to, he said. He now believed the government actually wanted the Karabakh business to simmer on to distract public attention while the elite continued to plunder the country.

"If you write that and attribute it to me, I'll deny it," he said. "But it's true."

The 60 odd men under his command lacked both the weapons and training to defend the straggling perimeter. The only Azeri soldiers worth their salt were four veterans from the Soviet war in Afghanistan who had volunteered to try and bring some discipline into the ranks of the defenders. The rest were green-horns-if the Armenians shot off one round, they would answer with a barrage of fire and waste half their precious ammunition. So it was that night: around two AM, I was awoken from my sleep by a distant burst of fire coming from the direction of a neighboring Armenian town called Laraguk, about 500 yards away from a part of Khojaly called, ironically enough, 'Helsinki Houses.' The Armenian sniper fire was returned with at least 100 rounds from the Azeri side, including bursts of cannon fire from an old BTR, newly acquired from some Russian deserter. It was the only mechanized weaponry I saw in the

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hands of the Azeris. The fire-fight continued sporadically until dawn, making it impossible to sleep. No-one knew when the Armenians would make their final push to take the town; everyone knew that some night they would. Khojaly controlled the Stepanakert airport and was clearly a major objective for the Armenians. They had to take it. I thought to myself: I would, if I were them. With that thought came another that filled me with unease: what would the residents do when they did?

In the morning, people were just standing around-literally. There was not a single tea shop or restaurant to idle away the time, so people just stood in small knots in the mud and gravel streets, waiting. The only person I saw actually do something was a very fat girl who worked as a sales clerk in the fabric shop where there was nothing to sell. I first saw her rapidly waddling to work at nine in the morning; the intensity of purpose was unique, so I followed her into her shop. I next saw in a video, lying dead on the ground with a pile of others-but that was later. The rest just waited around, waiting for the ax to fall. I just prayed that it wouldn't be while I was there.

We wasted the morning away around the airport; a photographer from an Azeri news agency happened to be around, so the military boys put on a good show, rolling out of their bunkers and running behind the old BTR, guns blazing.

'Let's do it again, but this time, let me take pictures from the front," the cameraman asked.

I felt sick and refused to have anything to do with the theatrics.

'These guys are going to die,' I said to myself. 'And I do not want to die with them just because they are so stupid to be shooting at shadows that shoot back.'

Alef Hajiev seemed to agree. We sat together in silence, watching his men pose for the camera, running hither and yon with brave looks carved on their physiognomies.

'Let's try that one again!' crowed the photographer.

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There was not much else to say.

Finally, around noon, I heard the tell-tale whine of a chopper moving high over the Gap. Thank God! crowed, but tried to look indifferent. Then I made my way toward the airfield, and just in time to see the overloaded bird disgorge its cargo of food, weapons and returning refugees. One kid got off with a canary in a cage, or maybe he was getting on. I think it was the former, but honestly, I cannot say for sure. There were a lot of people at the airport, trying to get on and off that lone bird, and I was merely one of them.

When those getting on seemed to be more than those getting off, I tried to get on myself. I didn't care that the chopper was carrying twice or three times its weight limit, nor did I mind that part of that weight was a corpse-one of Hajiev's boys picked off by a sniper the night before. I wondered if we had had Soviet-style SPAM dinner together, but thought it impolite to pull back the death-sheet and stare. The engines gunned and whined, and we lifted with a lurch-but this time I was not afraid of the flight. I just wanted out. We climbed and climbed, cork-screwing high into the sky and blowing over the Askeran Gap at 3500 feet with tail-winds. Maybe we took ground fire; I do not know. But this I did: I would never go back to Khojaly again.

There were no need for vows.

The last helicopter flight into the surrounded town was on February 13th.

The last food, save for locally grown potatoes, ran out on the 21st.

The clock was ticking quickly toward doom.

It struck on the night of February 26--the anniversary of the massacre of Armenians at Sumgait in 1988. Only this time, vengeance would demand not an eye for an eye, but whole human heads.

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* * *

We were in the car at seven and drove as quickly as we could across the monotonous flats of central Azerbaijan. Brown cotton fields belonging to collective farms stretched to the horizon in all directions, and men stood along the roadside waving dead ducks at us as we roared by. We stopped for gas at a town named Terter and asked the local mayor what was happening in Agdam. He said he didn't know anything. We stopped again in another town called Barda, and again took a moment to inquire about events and rumors. Clueless looks greeted us.

We were starting to think that the whole thing was an exaggerated bum-steer when we arrived in Agdam and drove into the middle of town, looking for a bite to eat. It was there that we ran into the refugees. There were ten, then twenty then hundreds of screaming, wailing residents of Khojaly. Many recognized me because of my previous visits to the town. They clutched at my clothes, babbling out the names of their dead relatives and friends and dragged me to the morgue attached to the main mosque in town to show me bodies of their relatives.

At first we found it hard to believe what the survivors were saying: the Armenians had surrounded Khojaly and delivered an ultimatum: get out or die. Then came a babble of details of the last days, many concerning Commander Alef Hajiev.

Sensing doom, Alef had begged the government to bring in choppers to save at least some of the non-combatants, but Baku had done nothing. Then, on the night of February 25th, Armenian fedayeen hit the town from three sides. The fourth had been left open, creating a funnel through which refugees might flee. Alef gave the order to evacuate: the fighting men would run interference along the hillside of the Gorgor River valley, while the women and children and gray-beards escaped below. Groping their way through the night under fire, by the morning of February 26th, the refugees

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made it to the outskirts of a village called Nakhichevanly, on the cusp of Karabakh. They crossed a road and began working their way downhill toward the forward Azeri lines and the city Agdam, now only some six miles away via the Azeri outpost at Shelli.

It was there, in the hillocks and within sight of safety, that something horrible awaited them: a gauntlet of lead and fire. "They just shot and shot and shot," wailed a woman named Raisha Aslanova. She said her husband and a son-in-law were killed in front of her and that her daughter was missing.

Scores, hundreds, possibly a thousand were slaughtered in a turkey-shoot of civilians and their handful of defenders. Aside from counting every body there was no way to tell-and most of the bodies remained out of reach, in the no-man's land between the lines that had become a killing zone and a picnic site for crows.

One thousand dead in one night? It seemed impossible. But when we began cross-referencing, the wild claims about the extent of the killing began to look all too true. The local religious leader in Agdam, Imam Sadik Sadikov, broke down in tears as he tallied the names of the registered dead on an abacus. There were 477 that day, a number that did not include those missing and presumed dead, nor those victims whose entire families had been wiped out and thus had no one to register them as dead before God. The number 477 represented only the number of confirmed dead by survivors who had made it to Agdam and were physically able to fulfill, however imperfectly, the Muslim practice of burying the dead within 24 hours.

Elif Kaban of Reuters was stunned into silliness. My wife Hijran was paralyzed. Photographer Oleg Litvin fell into a catatonic state and would only shoot pictures when I threw him at the subject: corpses, graves, and wailing women who were gouging their cheeks with their nails. Yes, it required stomach-but it was time to work, to report: a massacre had occurred, and the world had to know. We scoured the town, making repeated stops at the hospital, morgue and

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growing graveyards, out to the ends of the defensive perimeter to make horrible spot-interviews with straggling survivors as the stumbled in, and then went back to the hospital to check on new wounded and then back to the morgue to watch truck-loads of bodies be brought in for identification and ritual washing before burial. I looked for familiar faces, and thought I saw some but could not be sure: one corpse was identified as that belonging to a young veterinarian, who had been shot through the eye at point-blank range; I tried to remember if I had known or been introduced to such a man in Khojaly, but could not be sure. Other bodies, stiffened by rigormortis, seemed to speak of execution: arms were thrown up as if in permanent surrender. A number of heads lacked hair, as if the corpses had been scalped. It was not a pretty day.

Toward late afternoon, someone mentioned that a military helicopter on loan from the Russian garrison at Ganja would be making a flight over the killing fields, and so we traveled out to the airport. There was no flight, but there I found old friends.

"Tomas," a man in military uniform gasped, and grabbed me in an embrace, and wept. "Nash Nachalnik..."

I recognized him as one of Alef Hajiev's boys, a pimply-faced boy from Baku who had described himself as a banker before he had volunteered for duty in Karabakh. He was speaking in Russian, babbling-but one word got through the tears: the commander...

A few other survivors from the Khojaly garrison stumbled over and seized me. Of the forty odd men under Alef Hajiev's command, only ten were left alive. Dirty, exhausted and exuding what can only be described as survivor's guilt, they pieced together the awful night and next day-and the death of their commander, Alef Hajiev. He was killed by a bullet to the brain while defending the women and children; most of the women and children died anyway.

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Toward evening, we returned to the government guest house in the middle of town to look for a telephone, and there we met a drained and exhausted Tamerlan Garayev. A native of Agdam, the deputy speaker of parliament was one of the few government officials of any sort I saw there. He was interrogating two Turkmen deserters from the Stepanakert-based 366th Motorized Infantry Brigade of the Russian Interior Ministry forces. They had taken refuge in Khojaly a week before. The last element of the tragedy suddenly clicked into place: it was not only the Armenians who had assaulted the doomed town, but the Russians.

"Talk, talk!" said Tamerlan, as the two men stared at us.

"We ran away because the Armenian and Russian officers beat us because we were Muslims," one of the pair, a man named Agamuhammad Mutif related. "We just wanted to go home to Turkmenistan."

"Then what happened?" Tamerlan demanded.

"Then they attacked the town," said the other. "We recognized vehicles from our unit."

I thought of Commander Sergei Shukrin, and wondered if he had been involved. The two fled along with everyone else in the town, and were helping a group of women and children escape through the mountains when they were discovered by the Armenians and 366th.

"They opened fire and at least twelve were killed in our group alone," Mutif related. "After that, we just ran and ran."

A Russian-backed assault by Armenians on an Azeri town, resulting in up to one thousand dead?

This was news. But it was at this point that things started becoming very strange. No-one seemed very interested in the story we had stumbled on. Apparently, the idea that the roles of the good-guys and bad guys had been reversed was too much: Armenians slaughtering Azeris?

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"You are suggesting that more people have died in one attack in Karabakh than the total number we have reported killed over the past four years?" said the BBC's Moscow correspondent when I tipped him on the slaughter.

"That's impossible."

"Take a look at Reuters!"

"There's nothing on the wire."

Indeed. While Elif Kaban was churning out copy on her portable telex, nothing was appearing on the wires. Either someone was spiking copy, or was rolling it into larger, anodyne regional reports of 'conflicting allegations'. To be fair, the government and press in Baku didn't exactly assist in supporting our reporting. While we were off in Agdam trying to get out the news, the presidential spokesman was claiming that Khojaly's scrappy defenders had beaten back an Armenian attack and suffered only two dead. Just a regular night in Mountainous Karabakh. We knew differently, but it was the three of us against the Azerbaijani state lie machine.

Finally, I got a line through to the Moscow bureau of the Washington Post and said I wanted to file a story. The staffers there were too busy to take a dictation, but reluctantly patched me through to the foreign desk in Washington when I insisted. I used 477 as the number of dead, as religiously reported to Imam Sadikov, and was dragged over the coals by editors: where did I get this number from when Baku was still reporting that only two had died? Had I seen all the bodies? What about a little balance? The Armenian press was reporting a 'massive Azeri offensive.' Why wasn't that in my report?

I was about to answer that this bit of information was not in my report for the very good reason that it had not happened when the first Kristal missile crashed into Agdam, about a mile away from the government guest house I was calling from. Then came others and when one crashed into the building next door and blew out all the windows in our downtown dacha we thought it best to get off the phone and into the basement before we were blown to smithereens.

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After about an hour of huddling under mattresses we came up for air and decided it was probably a good idea to leave Agdam. So did about 50,000 other people, and we discovered ourselves in the middle of a mass exodus of trucks, cars, horses and people on bicycles, all trying to flee East.

* * *

I broke the story about the Khojaly massacre with a February 27, world exclusive on an inside page in the Washington Post. This was followed with a 'European' front page of the London Sunday Times. By then, the international hack-pack had started parachuting in to count the bodies and confirm that something very awful had happened. The first western reporter to actually get out into the killing fields and perform the grisly task of checking documents on the dead was Anatol Lieven of the London Times. His companion in the task was the late Rory Peck of Frontline News, another cool professional and dear friend.

Others performed less well. One best nameless reporter from Ajans France Press arrived in Agdam the night we left and found the city 'quiet,' apparently having confused the silence that followed the missile-induced exodus of 50,000 people with peacefulness. Still another, while a guest at my house, abused the confidence of Vafa Guluzade by grossly misquoting him. At the height of the crisis, Douglas Kennedy, son of Robert, showed up with a KGB-minder/translator from St. Petersburg, and thought he might do a little poking around the Front for amusement. After convincing him that his translator would probably get killed by a mob, Kennedy took my advice and hired two local lads, and then refused to pay them.

The government of Azerbaijan, meanwhile, had performed a complete about-face on the issue. The same people who had

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remained unavailable during the early days of the crisis were suddenly asking me to provide numbers of foreign correspondents in Moscow whom they could invite down, at government expense, to report on the massacre.

I did not react very well. I almost physically assaulted the presidential press secretary, Rasim Agaev, and publicly accused him of lying. The spokesman was not pleased and began a rumor that I was an Armenian spy sent to Khojaly to ferret out 'military secrets' during my January visit to the doomed town. I was temporally detained thanks to that charge, and started to slide into a very bad mood. When I was released I went downtown and found myself sitting around a commercial shop with a bunch of black marketeers, vaguely waiting for rubles to arrive in exchange for my dollars, when the whole thing hit me and hit me hard.

The evening streets were still filled with smiling shoppers, apparently oblivious or even indifferent to the fate of the citizens of Khojaly. It was the same men in leather jackets and the same women with far too much rouge on their cheeks and they were all smiling and laughing and parading and I have to say I hated them all. Maybe they didn't know what I did. Maybe they knew, but didn't care lest it drive them insane. It was not clear and neither was my brain.

I canceled the dollar deal, walked out of the shop and wandered the streets. I think it rained, but I cannot be sure. I wandered and wandered, unable to stop anywhere or see or talk to anyone for hours and hours. "Ha ha," someone cackled, as they leaned toward their gal, or turned on the key to their car.

"Ho ho," someone else chortled as they lurched out of a Komisyon shop, bottle of Finnish vodka under the arm.

I wanted to slash their tires, smash their noses, burn their houses-do something, and violently.

I did nothing but wander the streets and avoid humanity. It was better like that. Then I got home I sat down and poured myself a long drink and drank it and Hijran asked me where I'd been.

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"Khojaly," someone said in a voice I didn't know. I was there with the ghosts in a dumpy town with no food to speak of or water to wash and all the people I knew or had known there were dead dead dead and I just started to cry and cry and cry.

* * *

There weren't too many bodies. Most were still in the hills, waiting for the higher temperatures of spring for rot to set. Some, the few, were being spaded into the shallow ground of the growing Martyrs' Cemetery across from the parliament building in Baku. One of those was Alef Hajiev. I liked to think of him as a friend because we had consumed a few drinks together. A jocular cop with a big swagger and smile, Alef had managed to galvanize the Khojaly community around him in the belief that despite the odds and an almost total lack of support from Baku they could hang on and survive. But now Alef Hajiev was dead. He had bought a bullet through the brain and after rotting for a week in the mountains of the Black Garden his body was bought for 100 liters of gasoline and then brought back to Baku to be buried with military honors.

Despite the proximity of the parliament across the street no one from the government came to the funeral and maybe that was out of good taste because had they been there, whispering eulogies about courage and fortitude, Alef, the hero and then martyr of Khojaly, might have broken free of the bonds of death and climbed out of his grave and strangled the hypocrites with his own cold hands. He was that sort of guy.

But they weren't there and the funeral procession was small because Alef was a native of Khojaly and all or at least most of the would-be mourners were either dead or had become refugees, and had to be brought to Baku by truck or bus or train for the last rites.

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The exception was Alef's widow, Gala, a chubby Russian girl with a hint of a mustache who lived in Baku. We had met in Agdam in the aftermath of the massacre and she refused to believe that her husband was dead. Aside from an overwhelming sense of grief she was frightened out of her wits, wondering how she could live without him.

"I'm just a Russian, a Russian!" she cried. "And now everyone looks at me with hatred in their eyes!" That was in Agdam when anyone who wasn't speaking Azeri was indeed being looked at through the evil eye. I gave her my telephone number in Baku and told her to call if there was anything I could do. She called a few days later, babbling into the phone.

"Tomas," she wailed. "Alef is here."

At first I thought a miracle of mistaken identity had occurred and that Alef was still alive. But Gala was only calling to tell me that Alef's remains had been recovered in an exchange with the Armenians for several dozen gallons of gasoline, and then been shipped to Baku for burial. It was tough for me to understand her Russian on the telephone and probably a lot tougher for her to have to pick up the phone at all. But she stayed coherent long enough to give me her address and the time of the funeral procession. I went, not knowing what to expect: A week old cadaver in the living room? Mutilated like others? Scalped like some? I got in a taxi and traveled through a wasteland of hissing, blue and pink stuff-belching pipes of the oil refining area of Baku, driving over streets that had seemingly never seen repair. We drove and drove and it was a drive though an utterly depressing landscape, the sort that no-one ever sees, or admits to having seen: broken, diseased and bad. It was as much a symbol of the rapacity and ugliness of the regime in Baku as the corpses in Agdam had been. How can you allow people to live and die like this?

Complicating my dark mood was the fact that the Azeri taxi driver only wanted to make jokes, and in Russian. I told him what I

thought. I told him I was going to find the funeral of my friend, Alef Hajiev, Martyr of Karabakh, and that all the people of Baku were greedy cowards and that only the good men died and the filth remained behind. He agreed, refusing to take any money for the ride. It was his contribution to national defense, or something.

I got out of the taxi in front of a series of high-rise Soviet-style buildings-the ones designed so that the toilet is in a separate room from the sink. Degrading, like everything else around what was the USSR. Walking through the mourners I saw people I knew or at least recognized and embraced them. Then I saw Gala. She was standing in back of a truck carrying the flag-draped coffin and holding the hand of her smiling child who was still oblivious to what had happened to her father. I said something stupid like 'be strong.' I tried to plant a hand-extended kiss on the coffin perched on the back of the truck but I couldn't reach it and decided against climbing up on the truck and just waited for the procession to proceed. There were plenty of people crying. Everyone but me. My eyes were dry; I don't know why. Then someone somewhere responsible for formalities gave the word and the column started out toward the Martyrs' Cemetery in the heights above Baku. The funeral train in was the same as my journey out, although the route was different: another broken road leading through another industrial wasteland. It was Alef's route to anywhere, nowhere, death. We arrived at the Shehidler Khiyabani, or Martyrs' Lane cemetery, the place where victims of the Soviet army crack-down on January 20th, 1990 were buried in a long line along a granite wall shaded by dwarf Cyprus trees and pine.

I had visited the cemetery before and I have visited it since but it was different this time. I wasn't there as a journalist covering the event or even a political/cultural tourist. I was there as a mourner, mourning Alef Hajiev, the most recent addition to the second tier of graves, where the dates of death are different than in the first row. There was no third row, then. a place that would and will continue to

grow. Alef's was the 127th grave then, a hole in the ground surrounded by freshly dug earth. His casket was lifted down from the truck and I joined the pall-bearers as they hoisted it on their shoulders and brought Alef's remains down the line as a local man of religion recited the 'Fatiha', or Muslim creed of faith. This was odd because I was not sure whether Alef was a Muslim except in the formal sense of the word. He never expressed anything approaching piety to me. When he was alive he was a drinking man, although he didn't smoke. This was really odd, because Azeris usually smoke all the time, even at funerals. And the strangest thing about Alef was that he certainly didn't like Turks. He once told me that he had found too many 'Made In Turkey' labels in the trash cans of Stepanakert to believe in any pan-Turkic ideal.

I was thinking thought like this because I was remembering, which is what you are supposed to do when you punch bodies in the ground. Alef Hajiev was about to become the first of a whole string of people I knew who died violently over the next few years, so he got more thought than most. Alef's wife Gala and her Russian relatives were confused by the ritual placement of the body, the pious incantations and the fact that the week-old corpse had to be lifted out of the casket to be put in the hole dug in the muddy ground. They put the body in. An honor guard clicked their heels, slapped dummy slugs in their Kalashnikovs, and let off three volleys. The empty shells fell clattering on the granite walkway. I picked up one and put it in my pocket. Then the family and intimate friends began covering the body with dirt and the wailing really began. Women ripped their cheeks with their nails and men sobbed last regards. I was invited to say something into the grave but declined. I had quite a bit to say but I didn't want to say it, even in a language no one would understand. Cultural differences and all. I would do it differently today.

Then another, larger funeral procession started moving down Martyrs' Row. They were heading for the shallow grave next to

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Alef's. It was the corner spot and the next corpse would start a new row, even then being dug among the dwarf Cyprus trees in anticipation for the next to die in the Black Garden, that horrible place called Karabakh. More young men would soon lie here and their numbers would soon exceed all those killed at Khojaly and the events of February 25th and 26th, 1992 would soon become just a detail, just another grim statistic in the on-going litany of death and destruction in Karabakh, the Black Garden.

I swore I would remember Alef and all the others, whose names I never knew but whose faces were etched on my memory forever. Yes, I would remember Khojaly.

It was a dump. But now it was dead.

Thomas Goltz

Writer – journalist (USA)

BLOOD SPOTS ON THE SNOW...

Once upon a time, there was an ancient town in Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. The town was located in a fascinating corner of the country, expanding and growing prettier day by day. This hearth harbored indigenous population, as well as newcomers, Akhiska (Meskhetian) Turks expelled from far Fergana and representatives of other nationalities who sheltered there regarding this district as a warm refuge for themselves. The town with seven and more thousands of population was called ... Khojaly.

Today, this town, the name of which still remains on the map of Azerbaijan, does not exist any more... Khojaly, together with its children - local residents turned into a victim of the Armenians, settled down in the territory of Azerbaijan with the help of tsarist Russia in XIX century. They even established their own state called now Armenia by gradual appropriation of these lands and using their inherent slyness, cunning and falseness and not resting even after that, they still try to appropriate the lands of neighboring countries with inexhaustible territorial greed ...

Within a night, Khojaly was razed to the ground at the end of XX century while the mankind strived for the civil, democratic, safe and stable world. At this terrible winter night, the white coverlet stretched by the old nature over mountains, valleys and plains was stained with the scarlet blood of Khojaly citizens - women and men, the young and the old, children and adults...

Due to the incomplete bloody statistics declared hot on the heels, 613 Khojaly inhabitants became martyrs on 26 February, 1992, night. Since the site of the crime against unarmed and peaceful population was under constant fire and the enemy's control, it was impossible to take out corpses and only 335 of them were buried. According to the same incomplete statistics, 63 children and teenagers, 106 women and girls and 70 aged were among those

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killed with special cruelty. As a result of the tragedy, over 1000 citizens, including 76 infants, underage boys and girls got gunshot and missile wounds and became disabled. As a result of this criminal act, 8 families were completely wiped out, 25 children lost both parents and 130 - one parent. 56 people from amongst martyrs were killed with extreme brutality. 1275 of the town-dwellers were taken prisoner and hostage and the destiny of 150 is still unknown.

In fact, the number of victims is far above. American journalist Thomas Goltz wrote in his book “Azerbaijan Diary” that the number of the killed was 688 and the number of the buried based on Moslem rules was 477. Investigations of independent experts, researchers and agencies, testimonies of witnesses and victims reveal that the number of the killed and frozen to death or committed suicide at 25-26 February night, as well as within the next several days exceeded 1000 people and the number of missing people, taken captive and hostage is much above the mentioned figure. From amongst the brutally killed, there were 200 women some of whom were pregnant. 43 out of tens of killed children were juveniles and the youngest was a two-day-old baby. Some victims of Armenian gangsters were burned, ran over by military vehicles or dismembered.

How could such vandalism be committed on the eve of XXI century? Who committed such a brutal crime, unbecoming to the humanity? And who could do it except Armenian barbarians?!

The slaughter, going beyond analogues for its cruelty, was committed by Armenians together with the Khankandy-based 366th Motorized Infantry Regiment of the former USSR. Its staff included 49 Armenian officers and praporshiks. A special role in implementing the planned operation on that fatal Khojaly assault and extirpation of its inhabitants - in majority children, women and old people - belonged to the commander of 2nd battalion Major Seyran Ohanyan, the today's “Minister of Defense” of the self-proclaimed “Nagorno-Karabakh Republic” and Evgeni Nabokov heading the 3rd

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battalion of 23rd division of 4th Russian Army under command of Lieu. Col. Jury Zarvigarov. The battalions were equipped with 92 units of modern heavy materiel, including tanks, armored infantry vehicles, D-30 howitzers and other arsenal. By the way, it should be noted that attempts to deny the fact of participation of the 366th Motorized Regiment in the bloody Khojaly genocide are not based on real grounds and it is proved both by investigative actions and testimonies of live witnesses.

V.Savelyev, the counter-intelligence chief of one of the military units, participating in the Khojaly storm expounded this event in his work "Confidential reference" based on facts and documents and having observed the military operations led by the Russian military divisions together with the Armenian terrorist organizations in Nagorno-Karabakh. The author, apologizing in his work to Azerbaijanis, admitted the under-mentioned: "I could not help writing about all this. I can not forget the shot bodies of people, children and women and pregnant brides. Let Azerbaijanis forgive me that I could not do anything during these events with a bloody and atrocious consequences. I could only send the confidential information to the Kremlin and generals of the Head Intelligence Department of the USSR Ministry of Defense. Read, he said. Look, how the honor of Russian officers is discredited."

The Khojaly massacre stands in one row with Khatin, Liditsa and Songmi tragedies, but they cannot objectively come up to the Khojaly by a mercilessness and cruelty degree. 149 people were murdered by fascist troops in Khatin, Belarus, for alleged assisting partisans during World War II. Besides, during the same period, 172 inhabitants of Czechoslovak Liditsa town were killed and about 200 women and children were sent to a concentration camp for the attempt on Rainkhaid Geydrikh. American troops wiped out 500 members of partisan families in Songmi village of Vietnam in the 60s of the past century while struggling against the world

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communism. They scalped people and collected their ears just for fun. But in Khojaly, hundreds of peaceful people were violently murdered only because they were Moslems, Turks and Azerbaijanis. In other words, the genocide was committed.

Yes, this fact should be evaluated not only as the genocide of innocent population of an Azerbaijani town, scripted by Armenian official circles and implemented by armed bandit troops, but also as the crime against the whole mankind. It was the genocide act against the peaceful citizens and representatives of Moslem religion, including women and children! Armed gangsters murdered and raped parents before the very eyes of their children just for fun.

The town itself was razed at that bloody night to the ground.

The families of Vagif Mammadov (including his spouse and three sons), Samran Karimov (including the spouse and two sons), Firdowsi Aliyev (including the spouse and two sons), Garsalan Ganbarov (including the spouse and a son), 70-year-old Mirsiyab Husseinov (including his 58-year-old spouse), 72-year-old Gunesh Hassanov (including his 41-year-old daughter) and Hussein Husseinov (including the spouse, two sons and two daughters) were annihilated. We would like to bring to a reader's notice just few episodes of infinite events that are impossible to describe. It should be also mentioned that the confusion taken place upon the enemy's assault prevented testimonies of tens of terrible facts. Just pay attention to the disasters of survived people.

The sobbing grandmother of 4-year-old murdered Lale told the following: "We were moving all together, but we lost each other when a skirmish started. We followed the way up to the city. Firuza, the sister of our daughter-in-law and her brother Akbar helped me to carry the grandchildren. The city was close. My daughter-in-law Zarifa suckled the baby for the last time and gave her to me. The skirmish started when I gave Lale to her mother and tied 23-day-old Khayala to my back...An armenian bullet tore Zarifa's chest to pieces. Lale was trying to help her mother get up. We called her, but

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she did not want to come up to us. She could hardly cover her mother's body with the clothes got stuck in shrubs. The people could not take her away from bullets. The little girl was hit as she put the last cloth on her mother. She could just say "oh" and dropped her head on her mother's body, covered with blood...". Lale, her mother Zarifa and her father Tahir were buried together in the cemetery of Aghdam.

7-year-old Yavar Aliyev recalls: "The light went out in our house. I could not sleep. When the firing started, we ran to our neighbor's cellar and then towards the forest. Armenians caught us on the way, near Finnish houses...and started mowing down with submachine guns. Everybody lied down, but militants ordered us to rise and made us line up. The wounded and safe were separated...I was shot later. We were taken to Khankandy...My cousin Natavan was shot with a submachine gun. She was two. Malakhat and Melek were also shot...". Aliyeva Nasiba Rahim qizi, Yavar's mother who lost her husband and relatives adds in tears: "We were banished from Armenia and came to Azerbaijan, but Armenians got us here ... Everywhere was enveloped in flames on February 25. We gathered in cellars...and could come out only by morning. About forty people crowded into a factory's cellar, but after armenian tanks shelled and destroyed the place, we ran towards the forest...A boy without legs was floundering on the roadside. It was Vugar Najafov. We placed him in one of the houses and then ran further...Near a building next to a bridge we saw about 50 soldiers. They called us in Azerbaijani language. But when we ran towards them, we saw they were Armenians and Russians. We returned, but they started shooting us in the back. We spread on the ground, but Armenians lifted us up. By that time, only fourteen of us had survived. As we got up, Armenians ordered us to give them up gold teeth, rings and earrings...They had taken themselves the things of the killed. One old man begged them falling to his knees not to kill his only son who had got married 8 months ago and kill him instead. But Mugan, his son was

immediately murdered before his father's eyes. He was a son of Jamil Humbatov...His daughter Simuzari, his wife Furuza and daughter-in-law Sudaba were also tortured and then killed. Jamil Humbatov himself was taken hostage, but he said he would not live anyway...In the morning, we were brought to Khankandy. My father Talibov Rahim Khudaverdi oglu disappeared there. They cut off the head of Meskhetian Turk Ahmad before our eyes and took his ears with themselves. Each of them kicked the cut off head...My 7-year-old son Yavar Aliyev got two submachine gun wounds. Two grandchildren of my elder sister and her daughter-in-law were also killed before my eyes...”.

Khatira Orujova, who was 8 in 1992, recalls: “We were asleep. Suddenly, we heard terrible crash. When got up and looked through a window, we saw many burning houses. I, my father, mother, brother and sisters ran towards a tunnel. My aunt Sevil with two children and a neighbor with two children were also with us...Then a man named Shaiq came and said that we had to run to a forest. At first, I was together with my father and mother. My little sister Khayala was with my mother and another sister was with my father. In Nakhichevanik, Armenians blocked our way...We stayed in the forest. My mother was shot first in the morning. My aunt Sevil was shot second. She was 17 and my mother Irada was 26...When Armenians shot me, my mother was still beside me. She was wounded and covered with blood, therefore, we could not run...In the forest, we lost our father. I do not remember anything else because I was also “killed” a little...Then I remember that someone was carrying me. Who was it? I do not know...”. Khayala was wounded in the shoulder and chest. A bullet touched lungs and broke a rib, which caused strong bleeding.

Sanam, the mother of Khayala Abdullayeva told: “A skirmish started when everyone was asleep. When I looked through a window, I saw the town was burning. We ran to our neighbors. We always hid in their well when there was a skirmish...A neighbor's son Vugar

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Ibrahimov came and said that Armenians had approached the village and we had to run away quickly. About 500 people ran to a forest. We also ran – my father, mother, grandmother, sisters, two daughters and nephew... We stayed in the forest two days. On the third day morning Armenians encircled us. The heart of my grandmother Hassanova Goychay broke just at that moment. My father took off his jacket and covered the grandmother's body. We started running back, but we were fired in the back. The dead and wounded stayed, but we continued running. At the mountain foot, my 17-year-old sister Latafat Abdullayeva said she could not run any more. She sat on the ground... I was very angry with her. I told my father to throttle and kill her as she could "give" us to Armenians. But my poor sister was really dying. My father sat on the ground and embraced her. Her eyes went out. As she died, my father took off his waistcoat and covered her body... We started running down the hill. When we came down, we heard the voices of Armenians. My father said: - "Allah, have mercy on these babies!"... When I came back, I saw my father's eyes were closed. He had died. The corpse of my father Hassan Hassanov stayed there... We could not even cover him with anything... Six of us left. My sisters Tazagul, 23 and Khadija, 20, nephew and I with two daughters... At that moment, Armenians started shooting at us and a bullet hit 4-year-old Vusalya... Armenians took us captive appropriating our rings and earrings. First, we were taken to Pirjamal and then to Khankandy. We were beaten there... There were many girls and bearded men outraged them... In the morning we were taken to Askeran and placed in a cellar. There were many babies. Vusala's legs were wounded and bleeding. She often got unconscious...". Later on, Vusala's legs were amputated. Poor little girl, she had better run across a wild wolf instead of an Armenian. Maybe then she would have a chance to survive...

Sadagat Hussein qizi Agayeva, who lost three children during the Khojaly massacre, can hardly speak because of tears: "We stayed

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in a forest at night. My two children, 6-year-old Roman and 7-year-old Sevinj were shot...Roman died frozen in the forest”. How can this woman stand such a hard burden?

Khumar Salimova, who was 19 in 1992, recalls the terrors of that bloody night: “In 1992, on 26 February, night, Khojaly town was subjected to strong fire. Armored cars invaded the town from every quarter. The fire started unexpectedly and it was so strong that we were dismayed and did not know what to do or where to run. My brothers told me that Armenians had intruded the town and we should have run away. We started running towards Katik Mount... As we were running, maybe hundreds of people, hit with bullets, fell down to earth. But when we reached the mountain, an “Alazan” missile killed my brother’s wife, but I was wounded in the shoulder and face. Many of my fellow-villagers got lost...The missiles, falling from the sky like hail, did not let us run. Having crossed an irrigation channel, we crept into a trench. Morning was coming. Suddenly, Armenians surrounded the trench and started shooting us down one by one. Taleh Guliyev was shot in the month. Then his head was crushed before his wife’s eyes. As she started crying, she was also shot. 1-year-old Samir could not understand that his father had died and did not leave him alone...Then he was struck in the head with a rifle butt. He was struck so strongly that his brain came out...I lied among the dead pretending to be dead for some time...When the skirmish sound calmed down, I started crawling slowly...But when I heard somebody speak in Azerbaijani, I gathered myself up and cried “mother”...I came to consciousness only in an Aghdam hospital...”.

Nazilya Hamatova, wounded during the Khojaly storm witnesses: “On February 26, morning, we ran to a forest along the Askeran road...In the forest a bullet hit me to the leg. I stayed there among corpses. There were a lot of wounded and dead people around me...Parvana Azimova was shot in the mouth and her husband

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Hasanbala Azimov was shot in the head. Aunt Gullu, uncle Ibish, their son Shohlat, Telman's wife Irada, sister-in-law Sevil, Aslan Allahverdiyev and his daughters Irada and Valida, uncle Avaz, his wife Teyba, aunt Satly and her son Arif were shot before my eyes. There were hundreds of corpses around me. I was just lying and waiting for the death to come. 7-year-old Khatira was crying and trying to help her groaning mother right next to me..."

Samad Talibov, who lost both legs frozen during the Khojaly massacre, tells: "On February 26, night, Armenians started burning out the town. The scared people did not know where to run. Many were running barefoot and bareheaded...Our group of 120-130 people stayed in cold Katik forest. After some time, we moved towards Kharay village. But another group of people we ran across told us that Armenians had shot down everybody there and suggested us not to go there. We returned to the forest again. The adults could somehow bear cold and hunger, but for children it was very hard. They were weeping and asking for bread. What could those poor children do? How could they stand this cold and hunger? We stayed in the forest three days hungry and thirsty. Then we made for Nakhichevanik...But suddenly we saw that Armenians had encircled us from every side...They brought us kicking to a stable. There were other 50-60 people besides us. Later on, Armenians, crowding into the stable, started beating and mutilating us. They took away all our gold gauds...Men were made to carry firewood in the yard. There were many corpses in the yard...During the next beating, one young Meskhetian Turk could stand it no longer and shouted out: "Why are you beating me, the son of a dog?", but one of the Armenians released all the sub-machine charger into his body...It is hard to imagine how many young people were shot and honor of how many women and girls was overrode?!..."

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57-year-old witness of the Khojaly events Gulali Mehraliyev speaks gasping: “We spent six days in a forest together with my daughter hungry and thirsty. The frost, fears of the night forest and Armenians who could appear anytime frightened my poor daughter to death. My ill-fated girl could not endure it and died. I sat frozen beside my daughter’s body. I was looking at my miserable daughter and crying. She was 20. Six months ago, I had married her off having paid 12 thousand manats for dowry. But now, my poor baby was lying motionless on the ground...When I heard the voices of Armenians, I hid behind a fallen tree...I could reach Aghdam after passing through thousands of difficulties. But I am still very anxious about the corpse of my daughter...”.

Do you know a mother who raised her hand to her own daughter? Who is that miserable mother, compelled to commit such a crime? What could make a mother hurt her own baby? Being ashamed and confused of the terrible situation and at the same time happy to find her “killed” and miraculously rose from the dead daughter again, Mushkunaz Akhmadova shares her bitter story: “Yes, I strangled my daughter sleeping in this cradle with my own hands. I had no other chance. Although it was terribly hard and painful, I strangled my 2-year-old babe...I did not want dirty Armenians to get her...Because she did not stop crying, shouting and could in no way calm down. I thought if it went like this, Armenians could easily find the place we hid. What was a sin of our poor babies? How could a thirsty and hungry baby stand such a frost? We left our houses not being able to take anything...About 200 people were around me. Most of them were barefoot and half-naked. There was no food and we ate snow of hunger. Most of the children could not stand frost and died...The rest were crying. We stayed in the forest three days...My daughter did not stop screaming...I noticed that people were dissatisfied. They bewared of her loud weeping. I could not stand it any more. Sobbing bitterly and with heavy stone

on my heart I strangled the child with my own hands. She throbbed a little and stayed still. She was dead. She did not cry any more. I embraced my poor child and cried. How could I forgive myself such a crime? No, I would never forgive myself this unexampled crime. I should punish myself for this horrible crime...We started moving towards Dahraz village. I took the corpse of my daughter with me to bury her somewhere. Armenians stopped us near Dahraz village and locked in a cattle-shed. I was sitting on the cold ground with my daughter's dead body in my arms. Sometimes, I looked at her with strange fear. I was almost dead of repentance. I thought there was no use to kill the child; Armenians would have caught us anyway. I should not have strangled my poor baby. While I was getting mad of such exhausting thoughts, little Salatin moved and started to bustle about. I was so astonished that I could not move. I could not believe that she rose from the dead and revived. I opened the clothes she was muffled up and started to shower kisses on my sweet baby...". The girl was named Salatin following the advice of National Hero Salatin Asgarova murdered later by Armenian bandits...Her mother Mushkunaz became an invalid after her frostbitten toes were amputated...

Jamal Husseinov can hardly speak of the bloody events he witnessed at that terrible night: "I was 57 in 1992. My brother Latif lived in Khojaly. His three out of eight children were in Khojaly during the assault...On February 28, I together with some friends was taking corpses to Shelli village. But Armenians did not let us do it. Finally, on February 29, we could bring corpses from the place named "Garagaya". There were many corpses in the two-kilometer territory of a farm. Some women were killed together with their children...Some children's chests were lanced and hearts were cut up. Most of the corpses were dismembered. I found the dead body of my close relative Zohra there. She was dressed in the uniform of the

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National Army. One of her legs was cut off...A bullet hit her to the forehead...My brother Latif was killed by Armenians in Khojaly.

Malakhat Husseinova, the mother of four children speaks with an aching heart: "...We stayed the whole day in a cellar thirsty and hungry...But Armenians found us and killed my husband before my eyes...There were Syrians and the Lebanese among them. Armenians raped and then killed my 7-year-old daughter...They were not afraid of God...".

The mother of three children Nana Mehdiyeva: "Few of us survived from a group of 150 people...An armored car blocked our way. My husband Murad shouted me to lie down. I clasped 5-year-old Arzu to my bosom and lied down to save her if I was killed. Then I crawled to my husband to die together with him. Murad was killed. At the last moment, he stretched his hands to me as if he wanted to say something, but he could not...Uncle Safa and my 5-year-old daughter were also killed. Elman was killed trying to save my 3-year-old daughter...".

Kubra Rzayeva: "We almost reached the Katik forest when Armenians encircled us. I hid in shrubs and saw how my husband Shura and son Elshad were shot".

Khazangul Amirova: "My mother Raya, 7-year-old sister Yegana and my aunt Goycha were killed by Armenians. They burnt my father Tavakkul having poured gasoline over him".

Zoya Aliyeva: "150 of us stayed in a forest for three days. Dunya Ahmadova and her sister Gulkhar got frozen to death".

Saida Karimova: "12 of us were taken hostage. Armenians tortured to death my daughter Nazakat, as well as Taptiq, Saadat and Irada".

Can the people killing fragile infants, women and the elderly be named humans? Who could cover hands with the blood of innocent infants shot at the deadly Khojaly night, run over by tanks or frozen in forests, vales and mountains? Who could deprive them

of the right to be happy, play, grow up, study and love given by God? Who could it be except Armenian butchers!?

What could be a sin of tens of children, the youngest of whom was 2 days old? The only sin was that they were Muslims and children of Azerbaijanis!

A bullet hit the chest of Gulchohra, the wife of Nazim Hassanov, the member of Khojaly self-defence forces and went out through the shoulder-blade of 5-year-old Elgun tied to his mother's back. Nazim's mother Fitat was killed together with her 4-month-old granddaughter Aygun.

When fire showered Khojaly from the sky, Sara Guliyeva ran holding her 7-year-old son Shukur by the hand together with her 13-year-old daughter Parvana and 11-year-old Ravana. She was trying to save them, but she could not...They all fell to the ground...and froze turning into an ice lump...

7-year-old Sevil Guliyeva, 17-year-old Zahir Mammadov, 6-year-old Khayala Orujova, Maral Husseinova, Natig Azimov and Aynura Zeynalova, 2-year-old Samir Guliyev, 12-year-old Sakhavat Alakbarov, 16-year-old Simuzar Humbatova, 17-year-old Mikail Guliyev and tens of other minors and teenagers fell a victim to Armenian bullets during those bloody events.

Dozens of children died frozen in mountains, doles, forests and on roads having left their houses barefoot and bareheaded together with parents or without. Dozens of children and teenagers were taken hostage by Armenians.

The inhuman, violent murder of children, women and the aged is the way of Armenian bandits. Investigation of Khojaly events revealed that due to criminal case № 64524, Khojaly resident Orujov Telman Anvar oglu was shot and then scalped by Armenians near Nakhichevanik village while trying to escape from the blockaded town. Then heads of Mustafayev Vidadi Safa oglu, Nuriyev Hafiz Yusif oglu, Ilyasov Ahmad Mammad oglu and others were cut off. Baku residents Tofiq Badalov and Jabrail Rajabov were run over by

tanks. Their eyes were put out and ears cut away. The body of Karimova Firangul Mohammad qizi was completely dismembered, her ears were cut off and eyes put out. The eyes of Tamara Mammadova, Asli Dadashova, Mahi Amirova, Anahat Humbatova, Dilara Nuraliyeva and others were put out, their teeth were pulled out, their breasts and other parts of their bodies were cut. After the bodies of Bahadir Salimov and Iqbal Aslanov were thrust and their eyes were put out, they were burnt alive. Underage Salimov Arzu Bahadir oglu was tortured and killed with a steel bar. Armenians dissected the abdomens of some pregnant women, took out fetuses and throw them away. To what extent should violence stretch that Museib Safiyar oglu Jafarov, 1985, Mohammad Valikishi oglu Jafarov, 1900, Sarvinaz Ahmad qizi Ahmadova and Yaxshi Mehdigulu qizi Mustafayeva, 1908, Madina Badirkhan qizi Abishova, Manzar Mahsadi qizi Ismailova and Rahim Hudaverdi oglu Talibov, 1909, Salah İsmail oglu Abbasov, 1910, Minara Rahim qizi Abishova, Aghabala Imani, Gunesh Abdul qizi Hassanova and Baghdad Khatam qizi Jafarova, 1911, Ahmadova Durna Salman qizi, 1913 and dozens of other aged people were also violently murdered.

Armenians tortured and outraged hostages and captives. One of captives Niyaz Zeynalov, taken prisoner in his declining years and held captive for 2 months can imagine at once the deadly sight of those days as he hears even a short part of the bitter recollection: "... After Armenians captured me, they set fire to our house with my mother, aged wife and some other old people inside. When I told them about it, one of them slapped me in the face. One guy from Shamkir shouted at them: - "Why do you hurt an old man? Stop this violence against Azerbaijani people!"...He jumped at six armed Armenians and when they twisted his arms to take him out, he was still crying: -"You have taken Malibaily and Gushchular villages. Do you really think that Karabakh will be yours? No, Karabakh is ours! It belongs to Azerbaijan!"...That guy was knocked down and his

head was violently cut off before my eyes...On March 21, six bearded Armenian bandits came in and saying “today is a Turkish holiday and we have brought you a present”, jumped at me. They told me to open my mouth, but I didn’t...Then they shackled me and started beating. One of them drew a dagger and said he would cut my lips and tongue if I did not open my mouth. They opened my mouth by force and started to spit there one by one saying it is a holiday gift. They made me swallow down their spit. I thought it was snake venom in my mouth...”.

Hundreds of Khojaly people were subjected to tortures and abuses while in Armenian captivity...

The Khojaly massacre, committed with special violence riveted the attention not only of Azerbaijani journalists, but also the foreign press and observers and even some Armenians, stirring up the sense of deep regret.

Daud Kheiriyev wrote in his book “In the name of Cross” published in 2000: “It was possible to build a bridge of corpses to cross the 1-kilometer swamp near Dashbulag spring in that frosty winter morning. I did not want to walk over corpses. Major Ohanyan gave me a sign not to fear, as a war has its own rules. I put my foot on the chest of 9-11-year-old girl covered with blood. My shoes and trousers got fully dirty with blood. Thus, I moved over 1200 corpses...On March 2, the “Gaflan” group (this group was dealing with burning down corpses) brought about 2000 corpses of disgusting Mongols (Azerbaijanis are meant) and burnt them in parts approximately 1 km. far from Khojaly. I saw a 10-year-old girl in the last truck wounded in the neck and arms. Despite the frost, hunger and heavy wounds, she was still alive. I will never forget the eyes of that child struggling with death. Then the soldier named Tigran took her by her ears and threw over a heap of corpses, poured with mazut. They were burnt out later on. At that moment I heard a yell coming

from under the burning corpses and begging for help. I could not walk any more. But I had to liberate sacred Shusha cursed by Turks. Therefore, I returned...And they continued their march in the name of Cross”. Look, how openly just a small part of this book demonstrates Armenian vice!

Yuri Pompeyev writes in his work “Bloody Karabakh whirlpool”: “Only the dead remained in Khojaly” – “Moscovskiye novosti” (“Moscow news”) informed the world about Khojaly events with sorrow. “God seems to have really died”. Correspondent Viktoriya Ivleva was by her own admission going in the second wave of the storm. Approaching Khojaly she felt that “something looking like a cloud” was moving towards her. It was the cloud of half-naked people: “Three barefoot women with kids were the last coming over the snow. They could hardly move and often fell down. The youngest of their children was a 2-day-old baby. I could watch the further fate of this woman and her children on a TV reel recorded by a cameraman and full with sobbing voices. The “cloud” was shot down on a slope... People were stretching their hands to God, turned away from them...”.

Just look at the name of Ivleva – Viktoriya! Four selfless braves stand on fallen “Azeris” in one of the photos: fascists inspired with the feeling of victory took such pictures in front of prostrate bodies...”.

Jan-iv Yunet, the French journalist: *“We were the witnesses of the Khojaly tragedy. We saw hundreds of corpses of murdered peaceful people – the corpses of women, children, the old and the defenders of Khojaly. We were given a helicopter and could record everything we saw from a bird's-eye view. But Armenians started firing at our helicopter and we could not finish filming. It was a terrible sight there. I have heard much about wars and despotism of German fascists, but Armenians killing 5-6-year-old children and peaceful population surpassed them. We saw large*

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quantity of wounded people in hospitals, carriages and even in kindergartens and schools”.

Rori Patrick, the journalist, the English “Front line news” TV Company: *“Nothing can excuse the Khojaly crime in the world society’s opinion. I saw many mutilated corpses from a helicopter taking journalists to Nakhichevanik village. They were the Khojaly defenders and civil population, including women, children and the aged shot by Armenian armed gangs while trying to escape to Agdam”.*

Anatol Levin, the journalist, Great Britain: *“When we approached the snow-covered hills of Nagorno-Karabakh on a helicopter, we saw corpses scattered everywhere. We understood that they were refugees, shot while trying to escape”.*

V. Belikh, the “Izvestiya” correspondent: *“...Sometimes, corpses exchanged for live hostages were brought to Agdam. But it cannot appear even in a nightmare: pricked eyes, cut off ears, rawed skin and severed heads...the tortures overstepped all the bounds”.*

The “Krua I’Evenam” (Paris), 25 March, 1992. *“Armenians attacked the place named Khojaly. The whole world saw the mutilated corpses. Azerbaijanis inform on thousands of murdered...”.*

The “Sunday Times” (London), 1 March, 1992. *“Armenian soldiers annihilated hundreds of families”.*

The “Financial Times” (London), 9 March, 1992. *“Armenians shot down a group of refugees, moving towards Agdam. Azerbaijanis counted 1200 corpses”.*

The “Times” newspaper (London), 4 March, 1992. *“Many were mutilated. One little girl had only her head left”.*

The “Izvestiya” (Moscow), 4 March, 1992. *“A camera showed children with cut off ears. The half-face of one old woman was cut away. Men were scalped.*

The “Financial Times” (London), 14 March, 1992. *“Foreign journalists saw in Agdam the corpses of people killed in*

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Khojaly. There were three scalped corpses with pulled out nails among the murdered women and children. It is not the Azerbaijani propaganda, it is the reality”.

The “Izvestiya” (Moscow), 13 March, 1992. Major Leonid Kravetz: *“...On February 26, I took out the wounded from Stepanakert and returned to Askeran. I saw some strange spots below. As I lost height, my flight engineer shouted: “Look, there are women and children there”. Now, I could see myself about 200 corpses spread over the hill. Some armed people were wandering among them...We attempted to pick up some dead bodies during the next flight. One Azerbaijani captain was accompanying us. I have forgotten his name. He saw there his 3-year-old son with the crashed head and went mad. We could take the corpse of a boy without head before the fire started. I saw the violently murdered and mutilated bodies of women, children and aged people everywhere.”*

The “Valer actuel” magazine (Paris), 14 March, 1992. *“In this autonomous region, Armenian troops, including mercenaries from the Middle East possess the most modern military equipment and helicopters. The ASALA has army camps and ammunition depots in Syria and Lebanon. Having assaulted over a hundred of villages, Armenians annihilated the Karabakh Azerbaijanis”.*

“Sunday Times” (London), 08 March 1992. *“Khojaly used to be a barren Azeri town, with empty shops and treeless dirt roads. Yet it was still home to thousands of Azeri people who, in happier times, tended fields and flocks of geese. Last week it was wiped off the map.”*

The Times, London, 03 March 1992. Massacre uncovered By Anatol Lieven: *More than sixty bodies, including those of women and children, have been spotted on hillsides in Nagorno-Karabakh, confirming claims that Armenian troops massacred Azeri refugees. Hundreds are missing”*

The Sunday Times 1 March 1992. *“Survivors reported that Armenian soldiers shot and bayoneted more than 450 Azeris, many of them women and children. Hundreds, possibly thousands, were missing and feared dead. ‘They were shooting, shooting, shooting,’ echoed Rasia Aslanova, who arrived in Agdam with other women and children who made their way through Armenian lines. She said her husband, Kayun, and a son-in-law were massacred in front of her. Her daughter was still missing.”*

The Washington Post, 28 February 1992. Nagorno-Karabagh Victims Buried in Azerbaijani Town: *“Refugees claim hundreds died in Armenian Attack...Of seven bodies seen here today, two were children and three were women, one shot through the chest at what appeared to be close range. Another 120 refugees being treated at Agdam's hospital include many with multiple stab wounds.”*

This is a tiny part of the cruelest genocide of the XX century – the Khojaly massacre committed in this Azeri town against children, women and aged people, displaying the savagery of Armenians.

Gadir NASIROV

Editor of “Voice of Karabakh” newspaper

P.S. The under-mentioned literature has been used upon working up the materials:

V. Saveliyev. “Confidential reference”

Y. Pompeyev. “The Bloody Karabakh whirlpool”, 1992

S. Muslumqizi “They will never grow up”. Baki

F. Khijran. “The massacre in Karabakh”, Baki, 1995

T. Chaladze. “Mercy”, Baki, 1995

N. Yagublu. “The Khojaly slaughter”, Baki, 1992

N. Zeynalov. “Two months in Armenian captivity”, Baki, 2000

Other periodicals and materials obtained via internet

**CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY
KHOJALY.... FIFTEEN YEARS PASSED**

The appeal of victims of Khojaly genocide to international organizations, international courts, states and the people of the world

We, the relatives of the people died as a result of Khojaly genocide, the victims of the aggressive and ethnical purge politics of Armenia would like to apply to YOU. We want to attract your attention to the cruelty of Armenians who had no mercy on children, women and old people. We want to draw your attention to the actions of Armenian soldiers who killed with no mercy hundreds of inhabitants of Khojaly just for being Azeri.

Armenian troops under the command of R. Kocharyan, the today's President of Armenia and A. Gukasyan, the leader of the occupation and separatist regime in Nagorno-Karabagh attacked on the night of February 26 the Azerbaijan Khojaly town and started mass destruction of its inhabitants. 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old people were brutally killed; 8 families were totally whipped out; 25 children lost their both parents, 130 children lost one of their parent; 487 people, including 76 children were heavily wounded; 1275 people were taken prisoner and 150 of them are considered missing.

We ask you not to be indifferent to this awful tragedy, to give the estimation to the genocide, the crime committed not only against Khojaly people, but also against humanity on the whole, and punish the people guilty of this bloody crime. We call on the international society not to believe to the false tears of the Armenian criminals, and judge their actions as a a genocide act against Azerbaijan people.

*The survived inhabitants of Khojaly town
January 28, 2005*

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... Long 15 years...15 years since the day of tragedy, which makes blood boil, hearts freeze and conscience refuse to understand...

In October 1991, Armenians cut off the road connecting Khojaly with Agdam and it was possible to get to the town only by helicopter: short flight to Agdam and then harsh cork – screw lowering. When in January, American journalist Thomas Goltz made this awful trip, he saw cold and unprotected town. “In Khojaly the telephones did not work, absolutely nothing worked, there was no water, no electricity, and no heating” wrote Goltz. – Helicopters were the only link with the outside world and each trip was dangerous”. By February 13, 1992, when the last flight to Khojaly was made, less than 300 inhabitants had been evacuated, but still there were 3000 people. The defense of Khojaly was provided by the commander of SPAM airport Alef Hajiev and about 160 lightly armed militiamen. The inhabitants were waiting for the attack of Armenians. The storm started on the night of February 25-26. Armenians were supported by motorized infantry regiment 366, the regiment of Soviet Army. They surrounded Khojaly from three sides and after that, Armenian soldiers entered the town and put down the resistance of defenders.

Late at night, a big crowd of people started to flee across the snowy forest down to the valley of the Gargar River. Early in the morning, the inhabitants of Khojaly reached the plain not far from the Armenian Nakhichevanik village. Here, they were met by the Armenian militants. 613 people were killed. 63 of them were children; 106- women; the old – 70.

8 families were totally whipped out; 25 children lost both parents; 130 children lost one of the parents; 487 people, including 76 children were wounded; 1275 were taken hostage; 150 people are missing.

Hijran Alakbarova, the former Khojaly inhabitant told a representative of the “Human Rights Watch”: “We reached

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Nakhichevanik about 9 o'clock in the morning. There was a field full with many killed people. I think there were about 100 people. I did not try to count them. I was wounded just in this field. Hadjiev Alef was shot, and I wanted to help him. A bullet hit me to the stomach. I saw where they were shooting from. I also saw many corpses in this field. They were still warm – the color of their face did not change yet”.

Journalists and investigators who arrived here after several days saw a cruel picture of bloody battle. Emboweled corpses were everywhere over the frozen land. Anatol Levin from the “Times” wrote that “some of them, including a little girl had awful wounds in their bodies and the girls had only her face remained”. Besides those who died of gunshot wounds, scores of people died of cold and frost in the forests. No less than a thousand of Khojaly inhabitants were taken prisoner, including several tens of Meskhetian Turks and refugees from Middle East.

The testimonies of victims are unexampled

3-year-old Shovqi Aliev was taken hostage on January 24, 1993, during the occupation of Agdam. Armenian “doctors” in Khankandy cut his forearm bones and as a result, Shovqi Aliyev became invalid.

Arzu Hadjiev – the newborn sun of Guldjamal Gulieva, who was taken hostage on March 31, 1993 during the occupation of Kalbadjar region. Armenian “doctor” Aida Serobyan made the injection of an unknown composition and as a result, Arzu Hadjiev became invalid and died in May 2003.

Mail Mammadov was taken hostage on October 21, 1992. Armenians branded cross on Mail’s chest.

Abdulazim Mammadov – being wounded, was taken hostage on December 26, 1991. He was tortured, beaten with a rubber club and given petrol injections into his veins.

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Ilham Nasirov - while kept in Armenian prison over a year, was deprived of any food and as a result, died on November 23, 1993 (of starvation).

Fikret Gusseinov. In 1993, he was violently tortured and killed in prison by Armenians.

Anvar Djafarov - was killed in prison in 1994.

Gulshad Mammadov. In 1994, he was shot in prison in the head.

Rustam Agayev - shot in the head in prison in 1994.

The results of the forensic medical examination of the remains of Farhad Atakishiev, who died in Armenian prison, prove that he had died of heavy tortures and regular beatings.

Amirova Khazangul Tavakkul qizi was taken hostage during the occupation of Khojaly town (26.12.1992)

On the night of February 25 - 26, 1992, the Khojaly tragedy happened. The armed Armenians, who attacked town, took us hostage in the forest. My sister Yegana and my mother Raya were shot by Armenians. We together with other prisoners and hostages were taken to Askeran. Here, Armenians tied my father to a tree and tried to make him say: "Azerbaijan is a land of Armenians". But my father said: "Even with at the price of my life I won't sell my land to Armenians". Armenians poured petrol over him and burnt his legs. But my father was repeating: "Even if you kill me and my children, we won't give you our lands. Azerbaijan is our land". After all this, they burnt my father alive.

Azizov Ramil Ibrahim oglu was taken hostage during the occupation of Khojaly (26/02/1992)

Late at night, during the storm of Khojaly town, my father Ibrahim and elder brother Elmin, who had returned from the post, took us out of home. Trying to break through the circle, we ran to the forest towards Agdam. On the way to Nakhichevanik village, we ran into the firing. My old mother fell a victim of this firing. She died in the forest. Takhir was wounded and also died in the forest. The man

named Elkhan tried to save a little girl of 3 or 4. But he could not go even 10 meters when the little girl in his arms was shot by Armenians and Elkhan himself was wounded. In the forest Armenians shot the defenseless inhabitants of the town – my uncle Alakbarov Tavakkul, his wife Saadat and Gasanbala with his wife were among them.

Mamedov Mail Mamedali oglu was kept in the Armenian prison from 21.10.1992 till 07.05.1993

When I was in prison of Gadrut town, the Armenian militants put us in a row. Then Armenians named Artur and Vadik and one black bully laid me onto the ground and branded a cross on my chest with a scorching bar. After that, a black man tortured me by stepping on my burnt chest.

While kept in Gadrut, a brutally beaten and wounded Azeri guy was thrown into my camera. That guy was all covered with blood. Her hands were tied. After some time, the Armenian militants coming into the camera started brutally beat him with sticks, despite he was wounded. Then he was dragged out into the corridor and his head was cut off. The cut head was thrown again into the camera.

Daud Kheyriyan, the author of the book, “In the name of Cross” published in Beirut by the “Ash Sharq” publishing house tells on pages 19 - 76 about the battle in Khojaly. *“.... Suddenly we stepped on corpses...To cross a swamp near the Dashbulaq we made a bridge of corpses. I did not want to walk on the corpses. Then major Ohanyan gave me the sign not to be afraid, as it was one of the signs of war. I put my foot on the bloody chest of a girl of 10 and moved ahead...My legs, my photo camera, all were in blood (page 24)...On March 2, the Armenian “Gafan” group (dealing with burning out corpses) picked up about 100 corpses of Turks and then burnt them a kilometer away to the west of Khojaly. In the last car, I saw a girl of 10; she was wounded in her forehead and arms. This child with the blue face was still alive despite cold, starvation and the wounds. She was slowly breathing. I could not forget the*

eyes of that little girl struggling for life. Then a soldier named Tigranyan took motionless little girl and threw her over the corpses...Later on they were burnt....It seemed to me that someone screaming among the burning corpses asking for help....” (pages 62 - 63).

Gavrilov is writing in “Military Bulletin” (Publishing house St. Petersburg, 1998, page. 96): *“On March 10, 1992, the President of Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin received a letter from Minister of Interior Victor Yerin (“Oaylar”). The minister was writing about Khojaly stating that he will talk comprehensively when they meet personally and he asked him to watch the video tape attached to the letter. The video-tape showed the actions of the 336th regiment with the staff of 1890 people and the shots of Khojaly tragedy. General Yein was writing to Yeltsin: “...In Khojaly, the women, children, and old people were shot down. They scalped the men. According to the military intelligence, this information was given by some Mustafaev, the film documentalist, who was accusing the 366th regiment, located in Nagorno-Karabagh of the massacre...”*

Then he writes that after Elchin saw the tape, he signed the special order (0219/21. – OD – 1992. III. 12), which banned to receive the shots that could damage the honor and dignity of Russian soldiers. One of the basic goals to reach the target was to expand the intelligence net in the conflict zone.

The “Zerkalo” newspaper published the material about the actions of Armenian barbarians in Khojaly and the direct role of the motorized 366th regiment. This article includes the letter of colonel Savelyev to the Kremlin regarding the actions of Armenian and Russian militants in Khojaly:

“I do not have any desire to keep silence on the facts that happened in front of my eyes. I can not forget the shot children and the old, as well as pregnant women. May the Azerbaijan people forgive me that I wasn’t in power to stop these bloody events.

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I am sending the secret information on 19 pages to the Kremlin, the international organizations and generals of the HID (Head Intelligence Department). The honor of Russian soldiers is stained.

Col. E. Zarvigarov, the commander of the motorized 366th regiment and other responsible people, with the permit of the Army district command joined Armenians.

Thus, they brought 49 Azeris to the square and shot them. There was a case when I could not help a girl of 8 – 10 and who was just 10 steps away from me and shot, but I could not help her.”

The people who directly participated in the disbandment of the regiment and handing over arms to Armenians: Col.-Gen. Gromov, Lieu.-Gen Grekov, Lieu.- Gen. Ogonyan, deputy Andronov, Col. E. Zarvigarov (General afterwards), Col. Kraule...

The fourth army created the circumstances for the participation of soldiers of the 23rd motorized infantry division in Khojaly operation.

Those days Armenians – the staff of the “Operator - II” studio (Jule Barelyan, and Sherek Sitaryan) from France were filming the burning of the corpses of Azeris died in Khojaly.

Regarding to the officer Ivan Karabelnikov, it happened in a small hilly place in the north – east of Khojaly...

Having picked up the corpses of the killed Azeris, they put them to a “KamAZ” № “02 – 19 MM”, and then kindled big fire. Hatred is in the nature of Armenians. It has no bounds. I can not understand whence this hatred comes from. Here is the list of some officers who joined Armenians and murdered Azeris with great pleasure one by one: the deputy commander of the regiment for rear services Baylukov, the commander of the 1st battalion, Col. I. V. Moiseev, the commander of the 2nd battalion, major S.I. Ogonyan; the commander of the 3rd battalion, major Nabokikh, the chief of the 1st battalion’s headquarters, major Chigichyan; the chief of an intelligence regiment, major V.G. Ayriyan; the commander of a

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company, senior lieutenant O. V. Mirzokhalzarov; the chief of the platoon intelligence, senior lieutenant S.V. Khrinkhua; the commander of a tank company, senior lieutenant V.N. Garmash; the commander of a company, senior lieutenant N.T. Akopyan; the commander of a company, senior lieutenant V.I. Vavilovski; the commander of a platoon, senior lieutenant A.B. Lisenko; the commander of a battery, senior lieutenant V.A. Azarov; the commander of the 3rd tank company, lieutenant O.V. Balezniy; lieutenant A.V. Smakin; lieutenant S.I. Rachkovski; deputy chief of the intelligence, lieutenant L.I. Bondarev; lieutenant A.I. Kulov and 41 Armenian militaries from the junior officer staff.

Some facts of Armenian brutalities were withdrawn from Savelyev's report, because a normal person can not just read them calmly.

The Armenian pilots received the helicopters on February 19, and this air squadron was included into the motorized 366th regiment on February 22.

Here is the list of the helicopters and their personal staff that bombed Khojaly

Helicopter № 39: pilot Romb Galakchian – the Armenian from Lebanon, the profession engineer;

Helicopter № 40: pilot Razdan Minoyan – the Armenian from Syria, the engineer;

Helicopter № 29: pilot Zahid al – Muhammed – the citizen of Lebanon, the member of “ Hamas ”;

Helicopter № 17: pilot Ararat Saradjyan – the military from Yerevan;

Helicopter № 45 pilot Pirimyan Suren – the officer of the Yerevan militia.

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These helicopters were bombing Khojaly on February 26 from 16.00 to 24.00.

On February 28, Z.al – Muhammed and S. Pirimyan were awarded with the “Golden Cross” for the active participation in the operation.

Today, when 15 years has passed since this event, Armenians do not deny anymore that during the escape from Khojaly, many peaceful Khojaly inhabitants died. Some people blame Armenian volunteers allegedly acting without permission. The officer of Armenian police Major Valery Babayan told American journalist Paul- Queen Judge that personal revenge was the major motive of those events.

When Armenian military chief was asked to talk about the capture of Khojaly, he carefully said: *“We prefer not to talk about it aloud. But I think the basic matter is a different point. Before Khojaly, Azeris thought that they could play games with us; they thought that Armenians could not lift hand on peaceful inhabitants. We could break this stereotype”.*

The estimation of Sarkisyan allows viewing the cruel struggle in Karabagh differently. It is not improbable that these massive murders were in part the intentional act of frightening.

From the report of the independent investigation of the “Memorial” association regarding the massive breach of human rights:

“The places of massive death of refugees, as well as the corpses of the dead were filmed. Watching these images, one can understand that the corpses of dead people were dispersed over a big area. There were the corpses of women, the old and children. Several of corpses had the signs of tortures. The officials of Nagorno-Karabakh told the observers of “Memorial” that “120 – 130 corpses were taken to Agdam”. 96 corpses were buried in Agdam; the other corpses were taken by their relatives.

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While calculating the general number of the dead people in Khojaly, it is very important to take into the consideration that people died not only of bullets, but also of frostbite while wandering in the mountains. The observers of “Memorial” talked to a woman who lost her three children by this way. To determine the exact number of frozen people is impossible. Due to the information received from both sides, by 28 March 1992, more than 700 prisoners from Khojaly had been given back to the Azerbaijan side. Women and children were the majority”.

During inspection by the “Memorial” observers in Stepanakert, where the Khojaly inhabitants were kept prisoners, it was determined that the keeping conditions were not satisfactory. According to verbal information, the prisoners were beaten regularly. It is worth to state that observers were given permission to examine only a part of the prisoners.

The chief of the Temporary Detention Places major Khachatryan didn't allow talking to the prisoners privately, even for few minutes. It was possible to have one conversation by pure accident.

According to the testimony of the prisoners and then exchanged inhabitants and defenders of Khojaly, men were beaten; there is testimony which was confirmed by the doctors of Baku and Agdam about rape, even of the minors.

Escaping inhabitants of Khojaly did not have an opportunity to take with them even the minimum of necessary property. The inhabitants of Khojaly who were taken by Armenian military were not given an opportunity to take the part of their property.

The abandoned properties were taken away by the inhabitants of Stepanakert and nearest settlements. On the gates of many houses were written the surnames of the new owners.

Regarding to the decision of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Nagorno- Karabagh, Khojaly must be populated with needy Armenians, for this the numbers were given to them. The

Supreme Council of the NKR made a statement and expressed their regret regarding the brutal events happened during the occupation of Khojaly. But not any attempts were taken regarding to the investigation of crimes connected with the occupation of Khojaly.

During the conversation of the observers of “Memorial” with the officials, they did not deny that during the occupation of Khojaly the acts of cruelty might happen, as among the members of the Armenian armed military were the embittered people whose relatives were killed by Azeris.

THE EVALUATION OF THE RECEIVED EVIDENCES

While realizing the military occupation of Khojaly town, there were massive aggressions on the peaceful inhabitants of town.

The information regarding the presence of the “free corridor” was not given to the major mass of Khojaly inhabitants.

After the occupation of Khojaly by Armenian militarists the peaceful inhabitants were deported. These actions were realized in an organized manner, most of deported were detained in Stepanakert, which was evidently stated by appropriate orders of the authorities of NKR.

The massive killing of the peaceful inhabitants who were in the zone of “free corridor” and in the bordering territory could not be justified at any circumstances.

Seizure and holding of the peaceful inhabitant of Khojaly as “hostages”, as well as women, was in contrast with the statement of the officials of NKR to be ready to pass all peaceful inhabitants of Khojaly to Azerbaijani side. The condition of holding the “hostages” was not satisfactory; there was also violence on the detained inhabitants of Khojaly.

The inhabitants of Khojaly were illegally deprived from their property and given to the inhabitants of Stepanakert and other settlements. The authorities of the NKR legalized such kind of

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appropriation of another's property and gave them orders for the eviction of house, which belonged to escaped and deported inhabitants of Khojaly.

Remedial center "Memorial" states that during the storm in Khojaly the acts of the Armenian militarists formed in Nagorno-Karabagh towards the peaceful inhabitants of Khojaly is in crude contrast with Geneva Convention, as well as with the following articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (accepted by General Assembly of the UN, 10.12.1948):

Article 2, Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it is independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3, Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 5, No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 9, No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 17, Everyone has the right to own property alone and no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

The actions of the armed militarists are in contrast with the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergencies and Armed Conflicts (was proclaimed by General Assembly of the UN, 14.12.1974), in which it says:

"Women and children belonging to the civilian population and finding themselves in circumstances of emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence, or who live in occupied territories, shall

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not be deprived of shelter, food, medical aid or other inalienable rights, in accordance with the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child or other instruments of international law”.

As a result of the Second World War, new word genocide appeared in lexicon. After many scores passed International Tribunal for Rwanda called genocide “the crime of crimes”. In 1945 this term was used in the legal practice – in the Nierenberg process over the Nazi military criminals. On December 9, 1948 the General Assembly of the UN accepted “the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide”. The Convention confirms that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law. Genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

The convention also confirms, the following acts shall be punishable:

- (a) Genocide;
- (b) Conspiracy to commit genocide;
- (c) Direct and public incitement to commit genocide;
- (d) Attempt to commit genocide;

(e) Complicity in genocide.

Genocide is always organized: In most cases, it happens with the representatives of state, rarely in the informal ways, for example, with the help of the militarized or religious organizations. Units, bands and mobs of people which realize the genocide are as a rule, armed or trained beforehand. In this phase the plan of murdering is preparing, for example, “the blacklist” is preparing. The Organizing Party of Genocide ALWAYS denies the fact of genocide. Organizing Party of Genocide always blocks the investigation of these crimes.

For the crime of Genocide the presence of the special intention is a very necessary element. This objective point distinguishes the genocide from other analogical crimes. Every act which makes the crime of genocide appears to be conscious and forethought. Here, it is very important to figure out special direction of criminal intend connected with the negative results of acts. Shooting from gun, machine gun and other kind of guns, the organized ambushed of Azerbaijan civil inhabitants who wanted to escape proves the intention of Genocide.

For the qualification of the crime as Genocide, the final result as a destruction of whole group is not needed. For this it is enough to realize one of the acts which contains the intention to destroy the ethnical group as a whole or partly. The term of destruction is a part of the genocide, means killing through physical and biological influence.

It is fact that this crime is against Azerbaijan national group. While analyzing the crime of Genocide, its 3 parts come out: 1) presence of the famous national, ethnical, race or religious group; 2) presence of the intention to destroy such group in a whole or partly; 3) realizing towards of famous group one of the acts which considers as genocide.

The International Court recognized the principles, which contain the fundament of the convention “The Prevention and

Punishment of the Crime of Genocide” as a norms of justice cogent for all states.

The Khojaly Genocide entered the Azerbaijan history forever. The Genocide act was realized in Khojaly. We know it. But the world does not know about it. And will hardly ever know if we do not publish books and extend materials.

With the assistance of Azerbaijan Military Prosecutor Khanlar Veliyev, we introduce the list of people who perpetrated the military crimes against peace and humanity, with respect to whom the criminal cases were bring and the investigation is conducting:

List of Wanted people

1. Abramian Armo Aramovich
2. Barsegian Shaqen Semionovich
3. Beglarian Armen Volodiyevich
4. Kisebekian Griqori Akopovich.
5. Arutyunian Slavik Vadimovich
6. İshxanian Andrey Artyushevich
7. Beglarian Serqei Yurikovich
8. Arutyunian Kamo Rafaelovich
9. Danielian Armen Borikovich
10. Mirzoian Vachik Gratovich
11. Ayrapetian Vachik Gurgenovich
12. Ayrapetian Aleksandr Aleksandrovich
13. Akoopian Oleg Nikolayevich.
14. Tumasian Seyran Aprakovich
15. Kocharian Serjik Sumbatovich
16. Babaian Georgi Ginikorovich
17. Grigorian Valerik Sergeyevich
18. Balasanyan Vitali Mixaylovich
19. Chitchian Valeri İsaakovich
20. Ayriyan Vachaqan Grigorievich

21. Zarvigorov Yuri Yuriyevich
22. Gukasian Mavrik Araratovich
23. Agacanian Karien Levonovich
24. Ayriyan Samvel Samurkayevich
25. Garmash Viktor Anatolyevich
26. Smagin Aleksandr Vladimirovich
27. Balyazin Oleg Viktorovich
28. Akopyan Movses Qrantovich
29. Mirzoyan Maksim Mixaylovich

**Persons of Armenian nationality wanted as convict whose
biographical particulars are to be précised**

1. Nasibian Varujan Alekseyevich
2. Arutyunian Andronik Pavlikovich
3. Grigorian Slavik Bagratovich
4. Sarkisian Grisha Agabayovich
5. Simonian Vilen Arnodikovich
6. Davidian Seyran Surenovich
7. Galstian Janna Georgiyevna
8. Balaian Valeri Levonovich
9. Arutunian Arut Georgiyevich
10. Ogenesian Xachatur Sarkisovichin
11. Chobanian Shirak Shogenovich
12. Gulian Zorik Shurikovich
13. Ayriian Pavel Mixaylovich
14. Martirosian Vladimir Yefromovich
15. Kostandov Mixail Grigoryevich
16. Danielian Ararat Georgiyevich
17. Ayrapetian Vagif Bahadurovich
18. Sarkisian Telman Aleksandrovich
19. Arustamian Shiraz Nikolayevich
20. Gevorkian Lev Kommunarovich

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21. Gevorkian Serjik Andronikovich
22. Grigorian Slavik Arshakovich
23. Verdiian Vilen Aleksandrovich
24. Stepanian Xosrov Sanvelovich
25. Danelian Valo Teymurovich
26. Danelian Valo Abramovich
27. Tonian Suren Mesropovich
28. Gasimian Lyova Surenovich
29. Grigorian Ararat Artavazovich
30. Xanian Sokrat Agalarovich
31. Grigorian Hamlet Vagarshakovich
32. Sarkisian Benik Georgiyevich
33. Musaelian Artur Jorikovich
34. Xachaturian Vania Aleksandrovich
35. Babaian Rafik Benikovich
36. Grigorian Manvel Sektorovich
37. Epremian Artash Tagikovich
38. Gasparian Benik Aslanovich
39. Sarkisian Armais Baxshiyevich
40. Muradian Valerik Telvonovich
41. Saiadian Armen Gevorkovich
42. Aganesian Misak Surenovich
43. Badadian Spartak Samvelovich
44. Ayrapetian Ashot Romanovich
45. Pogosian Robert Eduardovich
46. Gaiamian Gabriyel Gevarkovich
47. Grigorian Aleksandr Stepanovich
48. Balaian Emil Vartanovich
49. Xachiiian Artur Grigoryevich
50. Petrosian Alyosha Sergeyeovich
51. Vartanian Melik Yenokovich
52. Petrosian Karo Vanoyevich
53. Osipian Ashot Mixaylovich

Khojaly genocide: million signatures – one demand

54. Avanesian Edik Samvelovich
55. Sarkisian Ashot Alibarsumovich
56. Petrosian Karo Anushavanovich
57. Sarkisian Gago Rubenovich
58. Galustian Gavrush Gurgenovich
59. Babaian Samvel Arshakovich
60. Sarkisian Armais Petakovich
61. Mkrtchian Spartak Agaronovich
62. Shekian Albert Mixaylovich
63. Aganesian Mishik Grantovich
64. Aganesian Agvon Grantovich
65. Agasian Benik Grantovich
66. Agababian Anushavan Verdiyevich
67. Beklarian Volodia Nikolayevich
68. Martirosian Henrix Ashotovich
69. Arushanian Sergey Baxshiyevich
70. Manucharian Samson Arutyunovich
71. Arakelian Benik Zinovarovich
72. Balaian Vladimir Alyoshovich
73. Zaxarian Manvel Karlenovich
74. Sarkisian Ernest Baxshiyevich
75. Bagdasarian Rudik Ashotovich
76. Beglarian Yuriy Ashotovich
77. Avanesian Armen Sarkisovich
78. Sarkisian Vova Armaisovich
79. Abramian Xoren Melikovich
80. Babaian Karen Andronikovich
81. Agaian Elmira Aleksandrovna
82. Babaian Samvel Andronikovich
83. Agabekian Artur Aleksandrovich
84. Mkrtchian Ohanes Simonovich
85. Kocharian Viktor Mixaylovich
86. Tangamian Hamlet Aleksandrovich

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87. Azoian Basensi Bagdasarovich
88. Movsesian Henrix Grigoryevich
89. Abramian Kanno Vladimirovich
90. Tumaniants Robert Sergeyeovich
91. Gasparian Yuriy Shagenovich
92. Agamalian Karen Grigoryevich
93. Arutunian Sergey Gavrushovich
94. Xachatrian Ashot Vachaganovich
95. Melkonian Gurgen Razmikovich
96. Pogosian Melikset Abramovich
97. Mnatsakanian Levon Henrikovich
98. Sarumian Aleksandr Artyunovich
99. Azoian Ovik Basens
100. Karapetian Martin Nazarovich
101. Amirian Arzuman Aramisovich
102. Ambarsumian Maksim Яmirovich
103. Petrosian Samvel Robertovich
104. Voskanian Albert Zavenovich
105. Avetisian Samvel Surenovich
106. Abramian Aleksandr Solomonovich
107. Arakelian Artur Komulovich
108. Vartanian Ashot Andranikovich
109. Arutyunian Vaganag Beybudovich
110. Grigorian Gago Zeynalovich
111. Arutyunian Zorik Nikolayevich
112. Kasparian Ashot Mixaylovich
113. Vartanian Alyosha Yerevanovich
114. Ayrian Arkadi Abramovich
115. Mikaelian Valo Vachaganovich
116. Mirzoian Razmik Rubenovich
117. Mirzoian Rudik Razmikovich
118. Tamrazian Neno Mishayevich
119. Abramian Armo Aramovich

120. Barsegian Shagen Semyonovich
121. Beglarian Armen Volodiyevich
122. Kisebekian Grigoriy Akopovich
123. Arutyunian Slavik Vadimovich
124. İshxanian Andrey Artyushevich
125. Beglarian Sergey Yurikovich
126. Arutyunian Kamo Rafaelovich
127. Danielian Armen Borikovich
128. Mirzoian Vachik Gratovich
129. Ayrapetian Vachik Gurgenovich
130. Ayrapetian Aleksandr Aleksandrovich
131. Akopian Oleg Nikolayevich
132. Tumasian Seyran Aprakovich
133. Kocharian Serjik Sumbatovich
134. Babaian Georgi Ginikorovich
135. Grigorian Valerik Sergeyevich
136. Balasarian Vitaliy Mixaylovich
137. Gulian Zarmik Agaronovich
138. Gulian Djivani Agaronovich
139. Sarkisian Dadiko Rantigovich
140. Akopian Karen Nikolayevich
141. Akopian Arto Nikolayevich
142. Petrosian Con Shahinovich
143. Nikosian Mexir Merudcanovich
144. Gabrielian Gena Vartanovich
145. Arakelian Albert Gurgeniyeovich
146. Avakian Armen Yegishovich
147. Avakian Andan Yurikevich
148. Chitchian Valeri İsaakovich
149. Ayriian Vachagan Grigoryevich
150. Zarvigorov Yuri Yuriyevich
151. Gukasian Mavrik Araratovich
152. Agacanian Karyen Levonovich

153. Ayriian Samvel Samurkayevich
154. Garmash Viktor Anatolyevich
155. Smagin Aleksandr Vladimirovich
156. Baliazin Oleg Viktorovich
157. Akopian Movses Grantovich
158. Mirzoian Maksim Mixaylovich
159. Sarkisian Georgi İsaakovich
160. Balasarian Arkadi Ambarsumovich
161. Musaelian Vania Vachaganovich
162. Xachatrian Vachagan Aleksandrovich
163. Musaelian Genrix Artyomovich
164. Simonian Ararat Xorenovich
165. Balaian Borik Benikovich
166. Balaian Robik Benikovich
167. Galustian Maksim Anreyevich
168. Gizirian Aznik Azatovich
169. Abramian Shagen Mixaylovich
170. Mkrtychian Viacheslav Sergeyeovich
171. Ayriian Rgol Ambarsumovich
172. Baxshian Albert Sarkisovich
173. Galstian Vazgen Vagartanovich
174. Avanesian Robert Eduardovich
175. Ataian Artur Ardashovich
176. Galustian Serjik Nersesovich
177. Gasparian Eduard Sedrakovich
178. Balasarian Sabir Ashotovich
179. Balasarian Slavik Ashotovich
180. Balasarian Gadir Ashotovich
181. Musaelian Savalan Artyomovich
182. Balaian Shmavon Andreyevich
183. Balaian Artur Shmavonovich
184. Musaelian Vova Artyomovich
185. Safarian Suren Tevonovich

186. Galustian Alik Yenokovich
187. Oganian Aleksandr Grantovich
188. Ataian Radik Yegiiayevich
189. Balasanian Ashot Armoyevich
190. Ataian Oganesh Ardashovich
191. Ataian Alyosha Ardashovich
192. Balasanian Ashot Sabirovich
193. Balasanian Arsen Sabirovich
194. Balasanian Garnik Gadirovich
195. Balasanian Samvel Ashotovich
196. Galustian Manvel Andreyevich
197. Musaelian Geno Georgiyevich
198. Ataian Edik Levoshayevich
199. Ataian Artur Levoshayevich
200. Balasanian Valerik Arsenovich
201. Balasanian Karen Arkadiyevich
202. Balasanian Valerik Arkadiyevich
203. Balasanian Anushavan Sedrakovich
204. Safarian Garnik Borikovich
205. Safarian Armen Jorikovich
206. Ohanesian Cagan Anushavanovich
207. Simonian Boris Vazgenovich
208. Goloian Ashot Araratovich
209. Grigorian Vladik Pavlovich
210. İsraelian Shirin Oganeshovich
211. Mkrtumian Semyon Aramisovich
212. Beglarian Vladik Vazgenovich
213. Galustian Mail Verdiyevich
214. Arutyunian Alesha Mamedovich
215. Turumiane Barment Abelovich
216. İsraelian Valerik Yaponovich
217. Beglarian Andronik Vagashagovich
218. Beglarian Slavik Azadovich

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219. Beglarian Yurik Begnazarovich
220. Arutyunian Sanasar Bagdasarovich
221. İsraelian Edik Vazgenovich
222. Grigorian Andronik Karpetovich
223. Gaiamian Samvel Vladimirovich
224. Xachaturian Norayr Jorikovich
225. Sevdimian Andronik Karlenovich
226. İshxanian Aroik Aleksandrovich
227. İshxanian Grigoriy Alyoshevich
228. İshxanian Davud Alekseyevich
229. Sevdimian Vrejik Karlenovich
230. Petrosian Razmik Arshakovich
231. Ayrapetian Alen Artsvikovich
232. Arustamian Artyom Armoyevich
233. Gabrielian Jorik Aramovich
234. Avakian Armen Rudikovich
235. Kocharian Araz Maksimovich
236. Arutyunian Alyosha Ashotovich
237. Kocharian Cavanshir Maksimovich
238. Petrosian Tigran Surikovich
239. Abramian Pogos Garnushevich
240. Manasian Xachik Serjikovich
241. Sarkisian Levon Grishovich
242. Sarkisian Ashot Grishovich
243. Grigorian Bela Setrakovna
244. Akopian Lyona Arshakovich
245. Alaverdiian Samvel Seryojevich
246. Gukasian Vahan Makarovich
247. Kazinian Jofet Xalatovich
248. Saakian Seryoj Santroyevich
249. Cheligarian Revik Sumbatovich
250. Saakian Zalik Garaginovich
251. Gukasian Aram Shavarshovich

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- 252. Gukasian Armen Shavarshovich
- 253. Beglarian Samvel Davidovich
- 254. Alaverdiiian Sevan Seryojayevich
- 255. Alaverdiiian Sevan Asaturovich
- 256. Aleksanian Misha Asanovich
- 257. Saakian Seryoja Agabekovich
- 258. Beglarian Ohanes Davidovich
- 259. Saakian Agabek Vasilyevich
- 260. Alaverdiiian Egish Alaverdiyevich
- 261. Akopian Vahan Sarkisovich
- 262. Stepanian Xosrov Sarkisovich
- 263. Ayrapetian Vagif Mesropovich
- 264. Gabrielian Vazgen Artamanovich
- 265. Grigorian Sergey Levonovich
- 266. Aramian Narvik Artsrunovich

Tatyana Chaladze

*The chief of the Center on the Protection of the Rights of Refugees
and Internal Displaced Persons of Azerbaijan*

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**ARMENIAN POLITICS AND AZERBAIJANIS
BLOODY PAGES OF HISTORY**

...There is a wide memorial plate attached to the wall at the entrance to “20 January” Baku city metro station. There are the names of 14 people lost in a terrorist act committed on 19 March, 1994 - a day before the dearest for Azerbaijanis Novruz bayrami (spring holiday) – in an electric wag. This, perhaps, is one of the absurds of history: in 1990, 20 January in “20 January” square under the name of “Soviet soldiers” reserve soldiers and officers of Armenian origin from Stavropol region and Rostov province committed massacres on 20 January, having shot and smashed the civilians and four years later Armenian terrorist groups had a hand in this bloody act at the metro station “20 January”. The memorial plate is just a little part to commemorate the people died during this terrorist act of all Armenians’ victims. It is impossible to place all the names of Azerbaijanis – victims of the dirty Armenian politics on one list, a plate, a memorial. As there are hundred thousands of them. The names of innocent people being killed may be commemorated only on the bloody pages of history.

The terrorist act in “20 January” metro station was committed under leadership of XXO Armenian organization. Other 13 people died in a terrorist act committed between the metro stations “28 May” and “Ganjlik” in 1994, 3 July. Azerbaijanis are the nation living with all the bloody consequences of Armenian terror as similar acts are numerous taking places in passenger buses, trains, ships, planes. Moreover, no one may guarantee that Armenians won’t use these anti-human methods. Thus, in history, since XIX century, 90s “Armenian affair” becomes a daily issue at an artificial speed when hundreds of terrorist acts have been committed with always innocent people suffered. During the same period Azerbaijanis turned to become aims for not only Armenian terrorists but also for Armenian

army, armed troops. They have the only aim: to drive out Azerbaijanis from the lands historically inhabited and to create an Armenian state on the freed lands.

The borders of “state” named by Armenian ideologists “Great Armenia” with new maps drawn from time to time stretch from the Black Sea until the Caspian. They consider Turks and Azerbaijanis as the only obstacle. In order to achieve the goals they are ready to use every anti-human means. Armenian writer Silva Kaputikyan writes in his book “For the first time...”: “Hayk must be aware that a child born into an Armenian family loving the God was not born to live but to help the Armenian nation. That is why you should loudly, very loudly shout into an ear of an Armenian just-born child: “Ey, Aram... Turk is your enemy... Motherland is more than God. Church is more than Motherland. Great Tigran is more than Church. “Great Armenia” is more than Great Tigran”. In order to realize this ideology all the Turk nations, Azerbaijanis, Georgians, Kurds, Lezghi, Jewish and other neighbouring nationalities have faced terrorist acts, bloody wars of Armenians. This appears not only in material damage but also in spiritual aggression. Armenian historians and ideologists falsifying the history are even now trying to confuse the international community with placing their names on other nations’ particular historical memorials, and unfortunately that is being achieved from time to time. This appears openly during the process of “recognition of genocide”. Great Georgian writer Ilia Chavchavadze wrote with heart pain in his book “Armenian scientists and crying stones” that Armenians are trying to attract attention of the whole world to them, meanwhile Georgian memorials and stones with Georgian inscriptions are crying about being appropriated. Similar reasoning may be come across with in the book by Vasil Velichko “The Caucasus”, who edited “The Caucasus” newspaper published in Tbilisi. We may also assert that since its origination “the Armenian issue” as a lexical term, having lost its political meaning, is being conceived only as terror and

destruction, and this in its turn is not of a casual and natural character. Because, three parties – Armenakan, Khinchak and Dashnaktsyutyun which brought misfortunes and tragedies not only for other nations but also Armenians, since first days of foundation stated in their programs about “a revolutionary way” being chosen. For example, the party Armenakan founded in 1885 stated that its prime aim was to set an Armenian state in a revolutionary way. With the same aim they founded branch parties in Istanbul, Iran, Transcaucasia, cities in Eastern Anatolia and United States of America. The party sent weapon to Eastern Anatolia, created resistance groups, committed political crimes of Kurds and Turks in secret ways. The party Khinchak, founded in 1887 in Geneva, Switzerland on the grounds of Marxists’ ideology used the methods “propaganda, agitation, terror” put the aim over human values and they did not scorn to kill Armenians who might be obstacles on this way of achieving this dirty aim. Only in 1890-1892 Khinchak killed 65000 innocent Turks and Kurds. In 1896 in result of inner-Party split Khinchak’s activity weakened and its place was taken by another revolutionary Party – Dashnaktsyutyun. There are lots of facts of black and bloody page of history connected with the same Party, founded in 1890 in Tbilisi. Despite of that the party was founded in Russian Empire and by Armenians of Russia, the manifest of the Party was oriented to “Turkish Armenia”. This Party with socio-directed political and economic programs was behind Khinchak neither with its extremist moods nor terrorist’s tactics. Yet in 1895 a well known German journalist William Libknecht in “Forverst” newspaper characterized the Armenian movement as a result of activity of Armenian terrorist organizations as he had certain grounds for this. For example, “Mshak” newspaper, published in Tbilisi suggested Muslims to leave the inhabited lands for Arab deserts. They know Dashnaktsyutyun in Azerbaijan, because in the root of politics of Armenians followed since last century beginning their ideology of Dashnaktsyutyun and this party.

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Foreseeing fail in Turkey, in 1904 Dashnaktsyutsyun moved to the Caucasus with the aim to widen its activity where they had the prime aim to move Azerbaijanis from their historical territories and set up Armenian communities afterwards build Armenian state by combining these communities. There are detailed information and facts about it in the books of several European, Russian and Armenian authors such as: “Description of Azerbaijani Armenians’ migration towards Russian borders” by Sergey Glinka, (about the Armenians living in Southern Azerbaijan-editor), “Armenian-Tatar massacres in Caucasus as a phase of Armenian issue” by Vladimir Mayevskiy, “Turks and Armenians” by Justin and Karolin MacCarts and “Notes on migration of Armenians from Iran to our provinces” by Alexander Griboyedov.

Throughout the history, gradual migration of Armenians, according to Turkmenchay agreement signed on February 10, 1828 and Adirna agreement in 1929, from Iran and Turkey towards the Transcaucasus, especially Karabakh province of Azerbaijan got a wide scope. Since then, time to time removal and resettlement of Armenians to Azerbaijan territories has been widely interpreted by real witnesses of the process, historians and other people. Those who moved to Caucasus not only behaved as eternal inhabitants of these territories but also strived for building an Armenian state in these territories.

Armenians have never avoided pursuing a genocide policy against Azerbaijanis in all the stages of new history. Especially at the period of political cataclysms such as 1905-1907 Russian revolution, collapse of Russian empire and victory of socialist revolution in Russia as well as at the time of high ranking functionaries placed in USSR leadership after World War II, at last during the process of break-up of Soviet Empire in 1987-1989, Armenians have committed an unprecedented savagery against Azerbaijanis. Nowadays there are no any Azeri Turks in Western Azerbaijan., whereas looking through the historical documents, one can be sure that majority of the

population living in these territories were Azerbaijanis and there are a great number of archive materials to prove it. 15 years after the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Armenians' removal to Garabagh (Karabakh) in 1973, Armenians decided to set up another Armenian state in Upper Garabagh Autonomous Republic without being satisfied with that they had already built in historical territories of Azerbaijan. Having been displaced from Upper Garabagh and its adjacent regions, nowadays over 1 million Azerbaijanis are living their refugee lives. Armenia, as an aggressive state hinders formation of peace and stability in the region, at the same time doesn't give up its territorial claims against the neighbour republics. These are the facts that can not be denied by anyone and are known to every Caucasians.

Bloody tactics, cunning strategy

Still in late 19th century, anti-Turk propagandistic activity of “Dashnakustyun” party was going on not only in Iravan and Tbilisi but also in Baku. The letter sent by Caucasus viceroyalty to the governor of Baku read that a 4 scene play by Safrazyan had been staged at the theatre named after Tagiyev in Baku, January, 1891. A Turk who tortures an Armenian woman is pictured at the 1st scene of the spectacle, the woman's struggle for her liberty at the 2nd scene, the same woman murdering the Turk at the 3rd scene and liberated Armenia in the example of the woman at the 4th scene.

Safrazaryan got the name of “broker of Baku” from Armenians for this play

At the beginning of the 19th century Armenian Church played a skilful role as the material and moral supporter of Armenian nationalist parties. The law, issued in 1903, regarding the inclusion of church's lands in the disposal of Russian Ministry of Land and Property caused ignition of anti-Turk and anti-Moslem spirits among

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Armenians, since it had struck the financial condition of parties funded by the church. Armenian Church masterminded the rebellions against that law in Iravan and Echmyadzin. Armenians committed a discord and terror acts in Ganja, on August 29, in Shusha on September 29, in Tbilisi on October 14, 1903. Discords spread over Russia and resentment against tsarism reverberated across the Transcaucasus. Armenians took an advantage of the chaos skilfully. Armenian bands, supplied with arms by high ranking Armenian and proArmenian functionaries of the Caucasus viceroyalty, intended to achieve number superiority by conducting armed attacks against Azerbaijanis living in Baku, Iravan, Nakhichevan, Zangazur, Garabagh, Ganja, Tbilisi and other places and displacing them from there. Since Armenians prevailed only in 5 out of 54 provinces existing in the Caucasus at that period.

A document of police department about Armenian-Moslem conflicts in the Caucasus in 1905-1906 reads “«Dashnaksutyun» proved its power, Moslems beared their sufferings. A dual game was played here: the first, to wreak vengeance on Moslems partly, the second, to lay the blame on Russian government by means of press and propaganda. As a result many Russian officials and other persons disliked by Armenians became the victims of terror. General Alikhanov-Avasky, Nakashidze-governor of Baku, Andreyev-vice governor of Ganja, colonel Bikov and Sakharov were among those victims. The second and partially achieved goal of Armenians was that the territories inhabited by Armenians and Moslems in the Transcaucasus were separated from each other. Lands were deserted for resettlement of Armenians removed from Turkey and Iran.”

Murder of one Azerbaijani by Armenians indeed was not a coincidence as several authors claimed, but a planned incident happening time to time in the cities crowded by all rich Armenians of the Caucasus. Armenians were certain to achieve all they wanted, oil resources of Baku with the help of Armenian millionaires living in Baku and later to drive the Moslems out of the Transcaucasus by

force then to set up an Armenian state. Although about thousand people died at the massacres, happened on the 6-10th of February from both sides, but Armenians' intentions didn't come up and they were defeated.

Armenians committed massacres in Iravan on February 21-23, as well. The situation escalated again after three Azerbaijanis got severe injury in Jahry village of Nakhichevan province on May 5, 1905 and murder of one in Tunbul village on May 7. Baranovsky, the vice governor of Iravan along with Aghamolov, the chief of Iravan city and chief of Nakhichevan city, Jafargulu khan Nakhichevansky came to Nakhichevan on May 8. As the massacres are still running, general Alikhanov-Avarsky was sent to Nkhichevan as well. The massacres were instigated again after Armenians' attacks against Azerbaijanis from Garsachay garden. Then Armenians attacked on neighbouring Azerbaijani villages. The results matched very well with Armenians' intentions: If Azerbaijanis made up 313176 of all the population living in Iravan province in 1897, this figure was 302965 in 1907. 10 thousand Azerbaijanis were executed in the province within 1897-1906.

Having achieved their objects, Armenians started committing massacres in Garabagh. Veysally, Gajar, Chamanly, Arish, Gishlag and Marza villages of Jabrayil-Garyagyn province were entirely devastated as a result of Armenians' attacks which have started since July 1. Massacres were committed in Shusha on August 19 as well. Armenians caused disorders and slew thousands of innocent Azerbaijanis in Ganja and Tbilisi cities as well as in Javanshyr and Gazakh provinces in November, 1905. According to Armenian author S.Zavaryan, there were 12 Moslem villages in Shusha, 15 in Javanshyr, 5 in Jabrayil and 43 in Zangazur provinces. By sending letters to Armenians living in Abaran, Alexanderepol and Shorayel, Armenian organizations assembled soldiers in order to build a road from Garabagh to Zangazur in summer, 1906. The number of Armenians was little enough along the way leading from Iravan to

Zangazur as well as from Zangazur to Garabagh. Therefore Armenian soldiers were commanded to attack Azerbaijani villages, situated along the way and raze them to the ground. Over 20 Azerbaijani villages in Zangazur province were razed to the ground by Armenians only in August, 1906. Generally, over 200 Azerbaijani villages in Iravan and Ganja provinces were destroyed and their populations became the victims of genocide within 1905-1906. But there were disastrous terrors and tragedies against Azerbaijanis ahead.

A new stage of “purge”

As we mentioned above, Armenians tried to realize their ambitions at the time of historical cataclysms and political disorders. During the political chaos in Russia, 1917, Armenian dashnaks worked out a plan to entirely annihilate Azerbaijanis living not only in their historical territories, Northern Azerbaijan, but also in other areas of the Caucasus. Their main goal was to commit a genocide act against Azerbaijanis and wipe them out completely. According to the plan, Armenians committed genocide against local population in Baku, Shamakhy, Guba and Goychay. A veteran teacher and real witness of horrors of those days, Mammad Huseyin Akhundov remembers that period so: “Armenians reached Goychay slaying Azerbaijanis. They committed unprecedented terrors, cleaved uteri of pregnant women and drove the babies into walls by thrusting them onto the spears, gathered people in the mosques and set fire on them, attached hot samovars on girls’ and women’s backs and made other horrors.”

After the collapse of Tsar Government in Russia, Armenian soldiers and armed groups, served at the Russian Army in battle fields of Germany and Austria assembled in Baku to realize dashnaks’ ambitions.

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The end of March, 1918 became bloody and tragic days for Azerbaijani people in the history. The massacre lasted for 3 days since March 31. During these pogroms, Armenian armed groups with the help of Bolsheviks unexpectedly attacked Azerbaijani districts and killed elders and kids without exception. A German, with Kulner surname who had witnessed those horrific days wrote in 1925 about the pogroms committed by Armenians in Baku: Armenians plunged into Moslem (Azerbaijani-editor) districts, murdered everyone, tearing with sword and piercing holes on them with bayonet. Several days after the pogrom, the corpses of 87 Azerbaijanis were taken out of a hollow and Armenians cut their ears, noses and tore stomachs and chopped sex organs. Armenians didn't have mercy on the elder as they didn't have on kids." 57 Azerbaijanis were found with ears, noses cut and stomachs torn only in one district of Baku after the March pogroms. Nailing up of young women alive on the walls and burning of city hospital hosted by 2 thousand people whom tried to protect themselves from Armenians' attacks are among horrific facts. Death toll was about 15 thousand. After the mass-scale pogroms of Azerbaijanis, Stepan Shaumyan, the head of The Baku Commune worked out his plan, which led to the massacres in Guba, Shamakhy, Salyan and Goychay regions to annihilate Azerbaijanis as a nation.

Armenian bandits had already committed massacres in Shamakhy early in 1918. The massacres had been conducted continuously in a planned way since March. As a result of sudden onslaught of Armenian armed detachments, 250 men, 150 women and 135 children have been murdered in Gubaly village of Shamakhy uyezd (district). The carnage of infants is an unprecedented barbarism in world history. Armenian detachments murdered 40 men, 50 women and 30 children in Garavally village where there were just 66 houses. Armenians shut up women and children at their homes and burned. They murdered 192 men, 115 women and 25 children in Gushchu village. Such kinds of massacres were committed in all the settlements inhabited by Azerbaijanis.

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Armenians used cunning before attacking Shamakhy; they sent bishop to Shamakhy on March 16 and persuaded people that they wouldn't touch anyone. But then it turned up that Armenians lied in order to slay majority of the population. The massacres committed by Armenians in Shamakhy are the blackest, bloodiest and the most horrible scenes not only in Azerbaijan history but also human history. The witnesses of those scenes are still alive and they even now, albeit many years passed since that time, cannot help crying when they remember those dreadful days.....and such kinds of facts will not let the witnesses' tears dry: about 8 thousand civilians were murdered in Shamakhy in March-April, 1918. When Bolsheviks seized Baku city and province in April, 1918, by Stepan Shaumyan's instructions measures were taken to seize the power in Guba province.

On May 1, a great military detachment consisting of only Armenians surrounded Guba, under the command of dashnak officer Hamzasp and opened fire on the city with artillery and machine-guns. Hamzasp's detachment was not an ordinary. It contained military units which consisted of Armenians who assembled under the special name "punishment detachment" and notorious for their savagery. Hamzasp with his detachment was sent to Guba personally by Stepan Shaumyan. He had not consulted other commissars about it. Military commissar Grigory Korganov established the detachment. He involved by Stepan Shaumyan's request 2 thousand soldiers in Hamzasp's detachment who were members of "Dashnaksutyun" party. Having occupied Guba, Hamzasp sent an appeal letter to city population with full of threats. The appeal read "I am a hero of Armenian people and protector of its interests. I have sent here-to Guba in order to take Armenians' revenge upon you. I have got an instruction to annihilate all the Moslems living from the Caspian coast to Shahdagh Mountain. I have been charged to raze your hearth and home to the ground, to do what we have done

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against you in Shamakhy and to take our brothers' revenge upon you.”

Armenians squeezed into the houses in Guba and neighbour villages and sometimes killed the whole family members without any mercy towards children and pregnant women. For instance, they decapitated whole 14 and 5 family members of Karbalayi Taji oglu (son) and Mahammad Rasul oglu, respectively, burned Haji Dadashbala Gasum oglu's wife Bibikhanum and son Abdul Gasum alive, chopped Abuzar Mastan oglu and his two daughters, Hokuma and Bustan with babies in their arms into pieces and cut Mashady Gambar Molla Muhammed Saleh oglu together with his wife and five kids into two equal parts. Almost all the elders in Guba were murdered. Along with all kinds of brutality and plundering, Armenians even didn't avoid committing rascal and villain acts. Armenians ordered respectable persons of the city to bring Moslem women and girls in order to amuse themselves. Alipasha Karbalayi Maharram oglu together with his son, who absolutely rejected that were shot down immediately. Sometimes Armenians took out men's eyes and slashed down women who were disobedient to their orders. Hamzasp's detachment set fire to 105 houses only in Guba. Generally, Armenian dashnaks devastated 122 villages of Guba province by burning them.

During pogroms of 1918, Armenians were not able to achieve their ambition-to liquidate Azerbaijanis as a nation. But Azerbaijanis became victims of real genocide. It is difficult to tell how many Azerbaijanis were murdered in those massacres. Since many archives were destroyed by Armenians later. But facts and archive documents that are available today enable us to imagine disasters of that period. Thus, 229 settlements in Baku province, as well as 58 in Shamakhy, 112 in Guba, 372 in Ganja, including 115 in Zangazur, 157 in Garabagh, 211 in Iravan, 82 in Gars provinces were completely devastated; tens of thousands of people were killed and displaced from their historical territories. In May, 1918, Armenian state was

established in Iravan province, which was historical territory of Azerbaijan. Armed bands of Andronik committed carnage against Azerbaijanis at that time. They murdered thousands of Azerbaijanis savagely in Goycha, Nakhichevan, Zangazur, Gorus and Shusha. Armenian author, Z.Korkodyan in his book “population of Soviet Armenia” wrote that as a result, during the collapse of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic there were only 10 thousand people out of 575 thousand Azerbaijanis living in the territory of present day Armenia till 1920. So, half a million Azerbaijanis undergone genocide in Armenia in 1918-1920 took refugee in Azerbaijan. The government of Soviet Azerbaijan inherited problem of repatriation of refugees to their eternal territories from Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. But the problem didn't find its solution even at the Soviet time. Only about 100 thousand Azerbaijanis could return to their historical territories till 1922.

“Contemporary” forms of repression

Gradual deportation of Azerbaijanis from Western Azerbaijan in the following years, at least their total banishment from those territories against a background of Garabagh issue broke out in 1987 that turned Armenia into monoethnic state.

Generally, there are no instances of the history in which Armenians have not used any inhumane means against Azerbaijanis. 743573 Armenians and 84717 Azerbaijanis were registered so far in Armenia, in 1926 and 1062000 Armenians, 130800 Azerbaijanis in 1939, respectively. Armenians increased by 42,7 and Azerbaijanis by 56,8 percent, respectively in comparison. Armenians were naturally concerned about this increase rate.

And how were the repressions committed against Azerbaijanis? Naturally there were no traces left about it in Armenian press at that time. But the information, given by

immigrants who were lucky to be able to flee from repressions to Iran and Turkey was given in several magazines published in Turkey and Germany. Late in 1920s and early in 30s, the strictest measures of collectivization realized across the Soviet Union were used against Azerbaijanis living in Armenia. First of all, they dispossessed the rich ones of the cattle which they inherited from ancestors and included in the economy of kolkhoz and dubbing them as “golchomag” (kulak) afterwards exiled them to Kazakhstan and Siberia. Thereafter, the use of such kinds of acts against the middle peasants and dispossessing them of cattle along with sowing plantations caused peasant revolts in Vedibasar, Zangybasar and Gamarly.

After revolts of villages were suppressed, most of the rebels were obliged to flee to Iran and Turkey thereafter mass arrests were launched in Azerbaijani villages under the pretext of the revolt. The relationship ties of Turks and Azerbaijanis living in Armenia with Iran and Turkey as well as their alleged connections with counter-revolutionary forces immigrated to those countries were the second pretext for the launch of mass arrests.

Mass repressions against Azerbaijanis obliged them to flee to Turkey. This was happening especially in neighbouring villages with Turkey on a mass scale. Azerbaijanis living in Armenia at nights with groups crossed through weakly guarded border points and mountainous areas to Turkey. Over fifty thousand Turks of Vedibasar, Zangybasar, Gamarly, Daralayaz, Aghababa and other regions were exiled to Kazakhstan desserts together with their families. Most of the people died due to severe climatic and ruined apartment conditions.

After the exile term expired, the families decided to return their homes but Armenians didn't allow them excusing that their region is close to Turkey's border therefore families either went back or took refuge in Azerbaijan and Georgia. At present, majority of our compatriots living in Kazakhstan are descendants of families exiled

from Armenia in 1930s. Azerbaijanis got much heavier blow in the background of intensified repressions in Armenia, autumn, 1937. A. Mikoyan, N.Yezhov and L.Beriya came to Armenia to unmask people's enemies, trotskichibuxarunist spies. During the "purging" process led by Mikoyan, Moscow was informed that as if Azerbaijanis living in Araz and Yukhary (Upper) Arpachay regions of Armenia intended to cross to Turkey all together. Therefore, ten thousands of Azerbaijanis living in villages of Vedibasar, Zangybasar, Gamarly, Echmiadzin, Hoktemberyan and Aghbaba regions which were adjacent to Turkish borders, were repressed and thousands of families were exiled on a mass scale in autumn of that year and summer, 1938.

Generally, over 50 thousand Azerbaijanis were repressed in 1930s. Having met with no any resistance during the execution of these repressions, Armenian leadership achieved realization of another action-deportation of Azerbaijanis-in late 40s and early 50s.

Deportations in 1948-1953

In spite of the fact of genocide committed against Azerbaijanis in Armenia, in 1918-1920 and repressions in 1930-1938, Azerbaijanis still prevailed along borderlines of Armenia with Turkey and Iran, including Azerbaijan and Georgia. Neighbouring regions of Iravan city were considered the most fertile soil and the majority of the population was Azerbaijanis in these regions.

The basic goal of the Armenian leadership was to displace Azerbaijanis from those fertile lands in outskirts of Iravan and along Turkish borders.

First of all, Moscow should approve that. It was necessary to inform Iosif Stalin about that the Armenians living abroad wish to live in Armenia and shortage of territories to accommodate them. They considered the only way out was to move Turks to low-lying

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regions of Azerbaijan. They didn't miss the opportunity to raise the issue to move Armenians living abroad to Armenia first time during Tehran conference in 1943. During the move of the conference, representatives of Armenian Diaspora got into contact with Molotov, the foreign minister of USSR and requested him that Soviet leadership approve their removal to Armenia. Having talked to Stalin, Molotov noted that they approved it.

Q.Harutyunov, the secretary general of CC (Central Committee) of Communist Party (CP) again raised the question of merging Garabagh with Armenia. He noted that if the matter was solved positively he would work out proposals regarding the restoration of Shusha, the former center of Garabagh which was ruined in 1920 and submit them to the Central Government. Stalin sent the letter to G.Malenkov and he in his turn forwarded it to Mirjafar Baghirov, the head of Azerbaijan Communist Party. M.Baghirov replied that he didn't object, provided that territories of Armenia, Georgia and Dagestan which were settled mainly by Azerbaijanis and historical Azerbaijan territories should be given back. Thus, feeling that the event was going in an undesirable direction, Moscow had to pass it over. Armenian leaders changed their tactics thereafter. They tried to achieve deportations of Azerbaijanis living in Armenia under the pretext of accommodation of Armenians, to be brought from abroad.

Having grounded upon the petition by Armenian government, USSR government passed a resolution on the organization of removal Armenians living abroad to Soviet Armenia. A special committee on reception and accommodation of Armenians was established within Armenian government and the government dispatched its representatives to those countries from which Armenians were to be removed. 30000 Armenians expressed their wishes to move to Armenia at the beginning of 1946. "Hynchak" and "Ramkavar" parties as well as Armenia-wide Philanthropic Union spent 1 million dollars on the organization of the removal.

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Armenian leaders elucidate the reason of decrease in removing process as that the Armenians coming from abroad were mainly city residents therefore it was impossible to accommodate them in upland areas as well as those who had removed wanted to settle down only in Iravan and near-by regions. Armenian leadership deliberately kept Armenians coming from abroad at railway stations for days and propagandized among them that if they were not likely to be accommodated in Iravan and near-by regions, they should send a telegram to Soviet government about going back-abroad. They specially emphasized I. Stalin's attention that these cases would discredit the Soviet government in foreign countries. On the other hand, the list of Armenians longing to move to Armenia from abroad was submitted to Moscow.

Q. Harutyunov, the secretary general of Central Committee of Armenian Communist Party considered removal of hundred thousands of population from Armenia to Azerbaijan as “the only way out of the situation” and asked I. Stalin to approve it. Armenian government had prepared the list of settlements, to host Armenians in advance. Firstly, Iravan city and near-by Ashtarak, Zangibasar, Echmiadzin, Hoktemberyan, Artashat, (Gamatly), Garabaghar, Vedi, Yeghegnadzor, Hrazdan (Akhta), Azizbayov etc, were included in the list.

Armenian leaders were able to persuade Stalin that it was economically profitable to accommodate Azerbaijanis displaced from Armenia to cotton growing regions of Azerbaijan in Mughan-Mill Plain. Since Council of Ministers of USSR enacted a resolution on reconstruction of Kur-Araz Plain in 1945.

12306 families (54373 people) were displaced from Armenia in 1949. While Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR made a decision to displace 2419 families (14361 people) in 1950, 65000 people were displaced that year. It was possible to supply only 4878 of families displaced from Armenia in 1948-1950 with dwelling houses. Some of the population displaced early in 1951, were

obliged to go back- to deserted villages. Being cautioned that repatriation would take a mass scale Armenian leadership refused to accept them. In fact, villages were mainly left deserted under the pretext of accommodation of Armenians from abroad. Few of them went to villages. Majority of the Armenians felt themselves deceived and didn't want to live in socially ruined Azerbaijani villages. Armenians strived for going back to those countries they had come from.

It was planned to displace 1500 families from Armenia to Kur-Araz Plain in 1951. 400 families were to be displaced from Iravan. According to the resolution of Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR on displacement plan which was enacted in 1952, it was intended to move 1200 economies and this plan was implemented for 124,6 % at the end of the year. At the same time, over thousand families moved from Armenia to Azerbaijan illegally.

If about 150 people were not displaced by Armenians in 1948-1953, along with this deportation cultural and educational institutions were not shut down and leading cadres were not ousted, the number of Azerbaijanis living in Armenia would be equal to that of Armenians as a result of natural increase of Azerbaijani population in late 80s. Armenian leadership anticipated this danger and took timely measures.

Although in 1989, SSR government made a resolution on the resumption of rights of nations, undergone deportations in 40s; Azerbaijanis who had displaced from Armenia in 1948-1953 were not included in the list.

“Propagandistic stage” of the deportation

Although Armenians' policy and assaults against Azerbaijanis were slackened after 1948-1953 deportations, especially Stalin's death, but anti-Turk and anti-Azerbaijan propaganda was

still going on. Even official circles of Armenia by Moscow's approval enacted a resolution regarding the celebration of 50th anniversary of false "Armenian genocide". Armenia's all mass media propagandized the "genocide" which was allegedly took place in 1915 all year long. Taking an advantage of the opportunity, "Dashnaksutyun" party which had been functioning secretly started functioning publicly. In February, 1969 Armenian nationalists celebrated solemnly the 100th anniversary of birthday of Andranik Ozanyan who had played a core role in the massacres of Turks and Azerbaijanis. Reunion Committee of Armenia was set up at that time. The basic goal of the Committee was to join "Turkish Armenia", Nakhichevan and Garabagh to present Armenia. As a result of discrimination policy of Armenia in the mid 60s, thousands of Azerbaijanis were urged to move from Iravan and neighbouring villages.

SSR government made a decision to receive new groups of Armenians living abroad in 1961. 26 thousand of Armenians moved from abroad to Armenia in 1961-1973. Removal of Armenians from abroad resulted in deportations of Azerbaijanis in 60s as it was in 1946-1948 and caused the move of tens of thousand Azerbaijanis to Azerbaijan and other places.

According to All-Union census in 1979, there were 160841 people in Armenia which comprised 5,3 % of Armenian population. But irony of the history was different: Armenian Republic was awarded with "Friendship of Nations" order. On April 24, 1983, Armenians under the pretext of "genocide" made attacks on the villages which were situated in the center of Masis region- in Ulukhanly settled by Azerbaijanis as well as destroyed cemetery of a settlement. Defenceless people were obliged to take shelter in Turkish borders. National discrimination escalated into so breaking point that even Central Committee (CC) of Soviet Union Communist Party (SUCP) which had indulged Azerbaijanis' deportation for a long time was obliged to react to these matters.

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October 17, 1984 dated decision of SUCP's CC regarding the "Implementation of resolutions of SUCP CC's plenary session dated back July, 1983 in party organization of Armenia" read that, works instigating nationalistic mood were written in Armenia recently, historical facts were distorted, language and culture of the minorities were suppressed and they were not represented in party, soviet and economic structures.

Publication of Zory Balayan's book "The hearth" in 1984 instigated hostile feelings against Azerbaijanis in Armenia. At that time there were 170 pure and 94 mixed Azerbaijani settlements in Armenia.

Heydar Aliyev, who was the main obstacle for Armenians to realize their territorial claims against Azerbaijan, was deprived of his membership at Political Bureau of SUCP CC and post of deputy general of chairman of USSR Council of Ministers as a result of pressure by Armenian lobby in October, 1987. At the end of October of the same year, protests were launched in Iravan with the claim of merging Garabagh with Armenia. But on November 18, Mikhail Gobachov's counsellor on economical affairs, Abel Aganbekyan in his speech before Armenian community in Paris stated that USSR leadership considered it feasible to merge Upper Garabagh to Armenia and useful for economical development of the region. "Humanite" newspaper of French communists disseminated the news. Aganbekyan was naturally permitted by USSR leadership to make such a statement. Influence of Armenian lobby on Soviet leadership had increased at that time. Mikhail Gorbachev's assistant A. Shahnazaryan was Garabagh Armenian by origin. Armenian Diaspora abroad spent great financial allocations for this work. Heydar Aliyev's dismissal from USSR leadership gave them much more opportunities. Nevertheless, Armenians several times tried to raise the question regarding both Upper Garabagh and Nakichevan during Heydar Aliyev's tenure both at the leadership of Azerbaijan Republic in 1969-1983 and representation at USSR leadership in

1983-1987, but they couldn't achieve their goals. A. Kochinyan, former secretary general of Central Committee of Armenian Communist Party wrote that during his tenure at Armenian leadership, Garabagh issue was raised several times but Heydar Aliyev's ascendancy and power in central circles didn't enable not only solution of the question but also its discussion.

Another incident happened in 1976. Former secretary general of Party Committee of Gubadly, Masuda Rustamova writes in her reminiscences: "Previously, zonal conferences were often held. One of these conferences was to be held in Khankandy. Although Republic leadership, party and soviet leaders of the regions and heads of economies came to Khankandy to participate at the conference but Armenians blocked their way in Askaran near Khankandy and didn't allow them to enter the region. They wouldn't stand out of the way unless Heydar Aliyev came. Finally, Heydar Aliyev came and learned from Krasilnikov, the chair of State Security Committee what the matter was, thereafter he himself went forward. He gave question to the Armenians who had been blocking the way: "What's matter, what's happened, what you want? Armenians answered unanimously "give us a territory then we will go." Glaring at them Heydar Aliyev said "I have no objection you may go. The road is open to Dagestan, Georgia and Armenia. I would do all my best to help you. If you want I can send you by sea, air and train. We will do how you want." Then he raised his voice for everyone to hear: "My lands remained there, in Armenia, too. We are not going to give anyone an inch of land."

We should note that Abel Aganbekyan based on false arguments while saying "economical development of the region". The real fact was that Upper Garabagh was foremost region in the Transcaucasus for its economical development. His statement in Paris soon sparked the start of many tragedies. Extraordinary session of People's Deputies Soviet of Upper Garabagh Autonomous Region (SPD UGAR) held with the participation of only Armenian deputies

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enacted a resolution on detachment of the Autonomous Region from Azerbaijan and annexation of it into administrative territorial division of Armenia. After the rejection of SPD UGAR's resolution by Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan SSR, Armenian nationalist leaders started realizing "Armenia without Turks" policy of "Dashnaksutyun" party. The last genocide and deportation policy was launched against Azerbaijanis in Armenia. Meetings had been held under the slogans "Armenia is only for Armenians" and "To purge Turks from Armenia" in Iravan since February, 19, 1988. Only mosque, remained intact in Iravan was burned on the third day of the meetings. Nevertheless, there were 8 mosques in Iravan, at the start of the 20th century. Inventories of an Azerbaijani secondary school and Azerbaijan Dram Theatre were destroyed. Armenians burned the houses of Azerbaijanis who were protesting against it in Iravan. Sumgayit pogroms were being prepared during these events. Eduard Grigoryan was one of the activists in the realization of "Sumgayit pogroms" plan (He killed 6 of 26 Armenians murdered- editor). Armenians withdrew all their deposits from saving-banks of Sumgayit city just 10 days before the incident. Armenian operators took their positions beforehand where the pogroms were planned to be committed and just two days after the incident they made cutting and paste work on the videotape then deceived the entire world. They also installed immediately a ready made monument to perpetuate the memory of "Sumgayit victims" in Khankandy. All these facts mentioned above proves that they wanted to instigate Armenians as well as world community against Azerbaijani nation and form "savage" image of Azerbaijan. The names of Ohanyan, Samoylov and Pavlovskiy, the organizers of Sumgayit pogroms were concealed from press and community for a long time. We should remind that Armenians made use of their evil experience during these events. Early in 20th century Armenian nationalists even didn't avoid killing Armenians in order to incite Armenians living in Turkey and putting blame on Turks. There are hundreds of

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undeniable facts in archives to prove it. Afterwards ex-president of Armenia, Levon Terpetrosyan in his interview said: “Azerbaijani people were shocked after Sumgayit events. If USSR leadership had made a decision about the annexation of UGAR to Armenia without missing the opportunity, Azerbaijani people would not have been able to protest it.”

It is necessary to stress one fact that Moscow’s stance in this matter played a key role in the escalation of the events. For instance, at that time, secretaries of CC SUCP, Yuri Ligachov in Baku and Alexander Yakovlev in Iravan were making different statements, the one emphasized that Upper Garabagh was a historical territory of Azerbaijan, the another was talking about the existence of political possibilities to annex the Region to Armenia. Moscow took this stance also during 1905-1907 and 1918-1920 massacres.

In early years of new stage of massacres and deportations, the displacement of more that 200 thousand Azerbaijanis living in Armenia was as vital as the solution of Garabagh issue. The problem was so aggravated that even Armenians living in Bogdanovka and Akhyllakal regions of Georgia made armed attacks on Azerbaijani villages of Armenia. Even though Moscow was to dispatch troops of internal affairs to the regions settled mainly by Azerbaijanis, the current of events showed that these divisions were authorized just to observe the massacres.

Session of Supreme Soviet of Armenia SSR enacted a resolution on the annexation of UGAR to Armenia on July, 15 1988 and appeal to USSR Supreme Soviet to approve it. After Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan SSR rejected the demand on July, 17, the condition of Azerbaijanis in Armenia aggravated. In fact, in Armenia it was clear that Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan SSR would reject it. But they were confident that they would stir up Armenians by this way and they achieved their goals. Now on July 17-20, furious Armenian groups poured into the busses and attacked Masi region and its villages settled by Azerbaijanis. Over 10 thousand

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defenceless Azerbaijanis gathered at USSR and Turkish border and had to spend the night there. Over 20 Azerbaijanis were injured and 3 thousand were evicted from their houses on these days.

Meeting of Presidium of USSR Supreme Soviet discussed UGAR's issue and considered it inadmissible to change the borders between republics and afterwards Armenian nationalists started organizing meetings to displace Azerbaijanis from Armenia. Associate member of the Academy of Science of Armenia, Rafael Kazaryan told at the meeting held in Iravan on November 4, 1988; "It is necessary to organize the emigration with the help of groups. We have a chance to purge Armenia from Azerbaijanis for the first time since decades. I consider it the greatest achievement of our ten months' struggle." In mid of November 1988, over 80 thousand Azerbaijanis escaped from the massacres and fled to Azerbaijan. Then horrible events were happening in Armenia. For example, Armenians attacked Vartanly village inhabited by Azerbaijanis and Armenians at night of November 25-26, in 1988. In spite of snow-storm, Azerbaijanis left the village and fled to forest. Armenians roped Mehrarly Iskandarov to a tree and before his eyes, pulled a rope over his wife, Khanym Iskandarova's head and insulting her dragged throughout the village. Being aware of this, Alim their 14 aged son, came down from the forest with a shot-gun in his hand and ought to open fire to rescue his parents. Armenians also opened fire at him. Then they take wounded boy and threw him into fire before his parents. Because of savagery committed against her son, mother threw herself into a river. But Armenians pulled her out of the river and murdered with torture. Being wildly beaten, Mehraly Iskandarov died. Having heard about his fellow-villager's tragedy 69 years old Garib Bayramov who had lost his arm at war in 1941-1945 went there to take their corpses but at that time Armenians struck him with an axe and threw into the fire. An old woman of the village, Leyla Huseynova died of the axe blow that she had got on her head. Suleyman Mammadov hid himself at his Armenian neighbour's

home but the neighbour betrayed him to Armenians and they burned automobile tyres then threw Suleyman Mammadov alive into the fire. At the same night 14 Azerbaijanis were savagely killed and then burned in Vartanly village. 13 Vartanly dwellers were lost at mountains while escaping. Generally, more than 30 Azerbaijanis were murdered in Gugark region where Vartanly village is situated. There are hundreds of such facts and such kinds of massacres were committed in all the regions of Armenia. Only in 1988, 213 Azerbaijanis were killed in Armenia most of them were children and old men. 2 of those murdered were decapitated, 11-burned alive, 3-cut into pieces and 29-crushed under the wheels of a car. Armenian's unlimited malice and cunning against Azerbaijanis turned up again during terrible earthquake in Armenia, on December 7, 1988. An incident was happened which didn't have analogue in the history: Armenians shot Azerbaijani aircraft which was carrying humanitarian and live aid for Armenians suffered from the earthquake. Only 1 out of 77 passengers of the aircraft, F.Balayev a Bakuvian automobile smith survived. Armenians even didn't allow taking him to hospitals in Armenia. 170 pure and 94 mixed settlements which were inhabited by Azerbaijanis were deserted within 1988-1989. The last Azerbaijani village, Nuvady in Mehry region of Armenia was deserted in August, 1991. Over 200 thousand Azerbaijanis were driven out of their historical lands. A historian of Armenia, Silva Kaputikyan's recommendation, "It is necessary to overwhelm Turks always especially its Azerbaijani branch. Struggle against every Azerbaijani must be conducted at State level." came to reality. Once having succeeded in establishing a state in the historical territories of Azerbaijan, Armenians formed their "belonging only to Armenians" monoethnic state by purging overall Western Azerbaijan- present Armenia from Azerbaijanis and afterwards started striving for Garabagh. About 1 million people were driven out of Upper Garabagh and adjacent regions. Armenians committed inconceivable tragedies during Garabagh war, the most terrible of

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them is Khojaly tragedy. It was, indeed, one of the real genocide acts against Azerbaijanis. Unfortunately, international community is unaware of the true essence of this tragedy. Parliaments of civil countries have not expressed their legal and political appraisal regarding the tragedy yet. Our archives are open for any researchers. We can put forward thousands of undeniable documents, collection of facts and stories of witnesses. If any honest Human being in spite of his/her nationality, religion and race familiarized himself/herself with these documents, without any hesitation he/she would make sure that one of the bloodiest events of the history-genocide of Azerbaijanis happened in Khojaly, on February 26, in 1992.

Mammad Nazimoglu

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TWICE PERSECUTED...

Many years ago Great friend of USSR nations Iosif Stalin signed the Resolution of Union of Ministers “on transmigration of collective farmers and other Azerbaijani population from Armenia SSR to Kur-Araksin plain of Azerbaijan SSR” with unprecedented absurdity, from dictation of his former friend A. Mikoyan on 23 December, 1947.

Striking cynicism is seen in each item of state resolution. Judge for yourself, as the following issues are noted in the first item: “To replace 100 000 collective farmers and other people on voluntarily principles in 1947-1950, while in another item it is said that “duty of leaders of the ministries, offices and enterprises to fire persons, have been removed from Armenian SSR to Azerbaijan SSR, i.e. dismiss all aforementioned people.

However, the next item, directions of native Soviet government, disposed of property of the collective farm causes greater indignation: “To let Ministries Union of Armenia SSR to use constructions and apartment houses, left by Azerbaijani population in connection with settlement to Azerbaijani SSR to reside foreign Armenians”, i.e. Azerbaijanis even were not allowed to sell their houses they built on their salary income. They were allowed neither to take away nor to sell his country production. It was also prohibited Azerbaijani cattle-breeders to get out their cattle “according to quarantine reason”. Does not it mean an open pillage?

Sometimes this “voluntary removal of Azerbaijanis from Armenia” is compared to expulsion of Chechens, Ingushes and Crimean Tatars. There was political basis, while in our case it is legal ethnical purge, i.e. genocide. A part of Azerbaijanis were deported to Armenia for settling in Khanlar and Shamkhor regions, from where Germans were earlier expelled. Their place was willfully and actively occupied by Armenians from Nagorno- Karabakh.

However, Armenians earlier occupied their houses and lands violently resisted, at that there were many offenders among them. This fact was revealed by one of the settlers, Agamirza Bagir Rzayev who sheltered in Khanlar at house of Account Section head. In his due course Rzayev worked at PCIA of Armenia and faced with Dashnaks and offenders of Armenian nationality. He displayed that many people were hiding in Khanlar city and their places were in order. He informed Bagirov that offenders kept under inquest in Armenia lived in Kirovabad, Khanlar, and Ajikend at the moment. He cited their concrete names and addresses.

Thus, when Soviet government deported Azerbaijanis from Armenia, active armenization of this former German colony was conducted in Khanlar. Covering aim of chairman of Executive Committee of the District Soviet of People's Deputies of Shamkhor Region Khojayan organized persecution for Azerbaijanis, deported from Armenians. He created his commission which investigated houses of settlers, prepared “acts for illegally arrived” Azerbaijanis and took notes from them on three-day departure. M. Jafarov wrote interested on all of them in his book. He has been long ago occupied with history of German settlers.

The question is that, Armenians, comprising 10% of people of these regions assumed 90% of senior posts in general. Armenians headed 7 from 26 agricultural Unions, only in Shamhor region. Secretary of their Party Karkaryan considered complaint, sent to M. Bagirov. Armenians signed petitions in Baku and Moscow, where they wrote about expulsions, committed by emigrants from Armenia and demanded to expel them from Shamhor and other regions.

On 7 September, 1949 Minister of Azerbaijan State Security Ministry S. Yemelyanov sent complaint under the name of his deputy who was in Ganja in that period and forwarded it to head of the fifth section of Azerbaijan State Security Ministry.... With Armenian nationality, Abramov. He informed that emigrants, i.e. Azerbaijanis, nationally- oriented ones, keep down local people, i.e.

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Armenians-illegally settlers. Such Azerbaijanis passed to the provocation way and composition of anonymous letters.

Thus, Azerbaijanis, deported from Armenia with the help of bodies of State Security Ministry continued to be kept down by Armenians and also by several Soviet bodies consisted of Armenians.

Persecuted once again became persecuted, but this time in their own motherland.

Item, where USSR Soviet Ministry obliged to the Soviet Ministry of Azerbaijan to pay up all damages, carried out by emigrants out of republican budget is also considered unjust.

Azad Sharif

Altay Zahidov

**THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
AS THE SUPPORTER OF THE TERRORISM**

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, when Armenia gained independence, it began to support terrorism on an official level, as a state, it adopted terrorism as an integral part of its aggressive policy.

Much evidence and forensic investigations prove that terrorist actions against civil population of Azerbaijan (among them explosions of vehicles) were committed by special services of Armenia and financed by the Government of this state.

In the beginning of the 1990's the official circles of Armenia started to campaign for the rehabilitation of the activists of Dashnaksutyun, ASALA, MAG, the Armenian Unity, the Armenian Liberation Front and of other terrorist organizations, they were rendered shelters, necessary financial support and created conditions for their living and activities.

Armenia began officially to collect signatures for the release of Varojoyan Garabedian who committed a terrorist action in the Orli Airport of Paris in the July of 1983. As a result of this action, 8 people were killed and 60 were wounded. The terrorist was sentenced to life imprisonment. In 2001, the French court released him and he has found shelter in Armenia officially.

Monte Melkonyan, a popular terrorist, leader of the grouping of the revolutionary movement of ASALA in the Western Europe, was sentenced to for six-year imprisonment by the French court on November 28, 1985 and was released in 1990. He came to Armenia and then sent to the Nagorno-Karabakh to continue his terrorist actions. Monte Melkonyan was the commander of the Armenian terrorist detachment during the occupation of the Khojavand district of Azerbaijan. He was killed in the battles in Nagorno-Karabakh in 1993 and buried in Yerevan. The officials of Armenia, including the Armenian president, took part in his funeral. He was declared a

national hero of Armenia and one of the subversive centers of the Ministry of Defense began to bear the name of this international terrorist.

A popular terrorist, member of the terrorist “Dro” group of Dashnaksutyun party Grant Markaryan was one of the creators of the terrorist group in Nagorno-Karabakh and active participant of arming of the terrorist groups with the aid of arms, which were brought from Armenia.

Vazgen Sislyan, organizer of the attack on the Turkish embassy in Paris in 1981, was awarded with the title of the heroes of the Karabakh war by the Armenian President Robert Kocharyan for his active participation in the terrorist actions against Azerbaijanis.

Abu Ali and Hilbert Minasyan, terrorists from the Middle East by origin, are protected by special intelligence agencies of Armenia for slaughtering the peaceful Azerbaijani citizens.

Terrorist-subversive actions committed in the territory of Azerbaijan

Beginning since the late 1980s, Armenian terrorist organizations, functioning in various countries of the world, began a constant and horrible terrorist war against Azerbaijan with the financial support of Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora. To spread horror among the population, to achieve great casualties during the occupation of the Nagorno-Karabakh territory of Azerbaijan and the adjoining 7 administrative districts, the special intelligence services of Armenia organized and committed terrorist actions in locations populated by peaceful Azerbaijanis far from the territories where the battles were waged, and as a result more than 2 thousand of innocent people were killed and wounded.

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September 16, 1989. A bus on the route “Tbilisi-Baku” was blown up, as a result, 5 people were killed, and 25 wounded.

February 18, 1990. A bus on the route “Shusha-Baku” was blown up at the 105-th km of the Yevlakh-Lachin highway, as a result, 6 persons were killed, 15 wounded.

July 11, 1990. The passenger bus “Tartar”-Kelbadjar” was blown up and as a result of terror attack against car column with civilians 14 men were killed and 35 persons were wounded.

August 10, 1990. A bus on the route “Tbilisi-Agdam” was blown up, as a result 20 people were killed, and 33 were wounded. A.Avanesyan and M.Tatevosyan were charged for the committed crime.

At the same day on “Shamkhor-Ganja” road near Nadel village of Khanlar district passenger bus “LAZ” (state number-plate 43-80 AGF) was blown up, as a result 17 men killed, 26 were wounded.

November 30, 1990. The passenger bus was blown up near the Khankendi airport, 2 persons killed, 11 were wounded.

January 09, 1991. As a result of terrorist attack against the car with the reporter of newspaper “Molodyoj Azerbaygana” Salatin Askerova and 3 other servicemen were killed. The members of terrorist group A.Mkrtchyan, G.Petrasyan, A.Mangasaryan and G.Arustamyan were put on trial.

May 30, 1991. The “Moscow-Baku” passenger train was blown up near the station of Khasavyurd in the territory of Dagestan of the Russian Federation, as a result 11 people were killed, 22 wounded.

June 19, 1991. At the 106-th km. of “Yevlax-Lachin” road, the car “UAZ-469” was exploded, 3 men were killed, 2 were heavily wounded.

July 31, 1991. The “Moscow-Baku” passenger train was blown up near the station of Temirtau in the territory of Dagestan of

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the Russian Federation, as a result 16 people were killed, 20 were wounded.

August 2, 1991. In the village Dolanlar of Gadrut district was exploded the car “GAZ-53”, as a result, 4 men killed, 8 were heavily wounded.

August 21, 1991. Near Shadakht village of Gadrut district, passenger bus (state number-plate: 70-30 AQO) was exploded, as a result, 2 men were killed, 10 were injured.

September 8, 1991. A bus on the route “Aghdam-Khojavend” was machine-gunned, as a result 6 people were killed, 34 people received injuries of various degrees. It was proved that the terrorist action was committed by ethnic Armenians Valodi Khachatryan, Saro Yeremyan, Sasha Chalyan, Armo Arustamyan.

At the same day a bus moving along the route “Aghdam-Garadagly” was machine-gunned by the Armenian terrorists, as a result 8 people were killed, 42 people got injuries of various degrees.

September 26, 1991. A car “VAZ-2106” (state number-plate: D 72-07 AQ) was exploded on the road “Yevlakh-Lachin”, as a result, 2 men were killed, 14 wounded.

October 19, 1991. A car “UAZ-469” was exploded near Sirhavend village of Agdere district, as a result, 3 men were killed, 2 were heavily wounded.

November 20, 1991. Helicopter MI-8 was shot down near the village of Garakent of the Khojavend district. All 19 passengers and the crew of the helicopter were killed. They included public figures and government officials of Azerbaijan and also observers from Russia and Kazakhstan.

December 26, 1991. The cars “ZIL-130” and “Moskvich” were exploded on the 4-th km of Shusha-Lachin district, as a result, 5 men killed, 4 were wounded.

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January 8, 1992. As a result of the terrorist action in the ferry sailing from Krasnovodsk to Baku 25 people were killed, 88 were wounded.

January 28, 1992. Civil helicopter MI-8 flying along the route “Agdam-Shusha” was shot down by the Armenian terrorists. As a result 44 people were killed, including mostly children and women.

In January 1992. Armenian terrorist groups killed 80 men in the village Kargijahan, in February 1992 Armenians killed 77 persons in the village Garadagly of Khojavend district and on February 26, 1992 in the city Khojaly 613 civilians were killed and 650 wounded.

March 22, 1992. On the territory of Gazakh district was exploded the car “UAZ 469” (state number-plate: 60-25 AZU), as a result 3 men killed, 2 were wounded.

May 20, 1992. Near the Qaranchi village of Zangelan district a car “UAZ 469” (state number-plate: 80-33 AQD) was attacked by armed persons, as a result 2 men were killed, 2 injured.

February 28, 1993. A passenger train moving along the route “Kislovodsk-Baku” was blown up near the station of Gudermes in the Southern Caucasian territory of Russia; as a result 11 people were killed and 18 were wounded.

June 2, 1993. An explosion in a van in the Baku railway station inflicted enormous material losses and damages. The terrorist action was committed by Igor Khatkovsky, a Russian citizen, who confessed that he was mobilized by the chief of the main intelligence department of the ministry of National Security of Armenia colonel Djaan Ohanesyan and sent to Azerbaijan for spying and committing terrorist actions. He had been tasked to carry out explosions resulting in numerous casualties. The investigations proved that the group, to which he belonged, committed explosions in the passenger trains coming from Russia to Baku.

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July 22, 1993. As a result of explosion in Tartar district 5 men killed, 18 were wounded.

At the same day as a result of explosion in Gazakh district 6 men perished, 10 were wounded.

August 30, 1993. A car “ZIL” was exploded in the territory of Gadrut district, as a result, 2 men were killed. Several days later, in the same territory, a passenger bus “GAZ-66” with 12 passengers inside was exploded. As a result, 4 persons were killed, 8 heavily wounded;

February 1, 1993. A terrorist action was committed in the passenger train “Kislovodsk-Baku” in the railway station in Baku, as a result 3 people were killed and 20 people were wounded.

March 18, 1994. Near the Khankandy, the plane “Herkules” belonging to Iran Air Forces was shot down, as a result, 34 diplomats and their family members were killed.

March 19, 1994. As a result of an explosion in the subway station “January 20” of Baku, 14 people were killed and 49 people were wounded. It was proven in court that this terrorist action was prepared by the special services of Armenia and committed by members of the separatist Lezghin organization (Sadval).

It became known that the activists of the separatist organization (Sadval) had visited Armenia several times since 1992. The main department of National Security of Armenia has closely participated in the formation, financing and armament of this organization. In April-May 1992, 17 Azerbaijani citizens, Lezghin by nationality, underwent special training in subversion at the training base located in the settlement of Lusakert in the district of Nairi of Armenia. It has become evident in the process of investigation that the saboteurs planned to commit explosions in the cinema house of Nizami of Baku and in the Republican Palace, in the Baku Lamp Producing Plant in conformity with the instructions given to them.

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30 former members of the separatist Sadval organization were charged with the explosion in the subway station of “January 20”, all of them had undergone special terrorist-subversive training in Armenia.

April 13, 1994. The Moscow-Baku passenger train was blown up near the station “Dagestanskije Ogni” of the Republic of Dagestan, as a result 6 people were killed and 3 people were wounded.

July 3, 1994. 13 people were killed and 42 people injured as a result of the explosion between the subway stations “May 28” and “Ganjlik” in Baku.

The terrorist action was committed by Aslanov Azer Salman oglu, citizen of Azerbaijan. He was taken captive by the Armenians in the battles in Nagorno-Karabakh in 1994 and then recruited by special agencies of Armenia. It was proven in court that on January 14, 1994, one of the ideologists of the Armenian separatist’s writer Zori Balayan met Azer Aslanov, a military captive, Lezghin by nationality, and tried to persuade him that it is necessary to unite all the minorities and fight against Azerbaijan and make use of terrorist actions. On June 9, 1994, a man named Arthur from the special service agency of Armenia rang the flat of A.Aslanov in Baku, saying that he was alive and asked one of his close relatives to come to Yerevan for negotiations for his release. On June 16, 1994, Tajibat Aslanova, mother of Azer Aslanov, went to Yerevan. Azer Aslanov was told that the life of his mother was in danger and under the threat he was compelled to be recruited as a permanent agent under the pseudonym of “Omar-75”. To organize his arrival in Azerbaijan without any obstacle he was provided with false documents, explosives were hidden in boxes of chocolate, biscuits and perfumery.

A.Aslanov arrived in Baku by the route “Yerevan-Mineralnie vodi-Baku”, and on July 3, 1994, he committed the terrorist action in the underground train between the stations “May 28” and “Ganjlik”

in Baku and again returned to Yerevan. Only then his mother, who had remained as a hostage in Yerevan, was released.

The investigation revealed that the organizers of the terrorist action were Karen Bagdasaryan (colonel) and Seyran Sarkisyan (captain) from the special service agency of Armenia.

It was completely proven during the investigation led by Supreme Court of the Republic of Azerbaijan that all terrorist actions mentioned above were organized, sponsored and equipped by functionaries of the illegal regime of Nagorno-Karabakh, Special Services and other governmental bodies of Armenia.

Terrorist organizations of Armenia

Names of the Armenian terrorist organizations guilty in bloody terrorist actions in various corners of the world:

- Armenakan party: founded in 1885, committed armed clashes and terrorist actions in Van, Mush, Bitlis, Trabzon of Turkey, collaborated with Armenians living in Russia and Iran.

- Hnchak party: founded in Geneva in 1887, its aim is to create a Greater Armenia by joining the Anadolu region of Turkey, the territories called the Russian and Iranian territories of Armenia. Article 4 of the charter of the party says: “The method of propagation, agitation, terrorism and destruction must be used for achieving the goal, an organization must be founded for using this method.”

- Dashnaksutyun (Dashnaks): Armenian Federal Revolutionary party: founded in 1890 in Tbilisi. The main purpose was to create the Great Armenia in the territories of the Nagorno-Karabakh and Nakhichevan of Azerbaijan and Anatolia of Turkey. It held its first congress in Tbilisi in 1892 and adopted a resolution on the organization of terror acts attempts in Turkey. Just after the

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resolution, Dashnaksutyun ordered to kill the Turks, Kurds everywhere, in all circumstances, to kill those who break their promise, the treacherous Armenians, take revenge!

There are several terrorist groups created by Dashnaksutyun: Avengers of the Armenian genocide, founded in 1973, murdered the Turkish diplomats in 1980-1982 in Austria, Denmark and Portugal. Secret terrorist group of DRO and its divisions: DRO-8, DRO-88, DRO-888 and DRO-8888. The Dashnaks continue their activities in this direction.

- Armenian Secret Liberation Army (ASLA): founded in Beirut in 1975. Its headquarters is in Damask. It has over 1000 militants undergone training in the bases in Palestine. In the first six years of its activities it has murdered 19 Turkish diplomats in various countries of the world by committing terrorist actions.

- Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA): founded in 1975. Its headquarters is in Beirut; its military training bases are in Syria. Its aim is to create a Greater Armenia by joining the territories of the eastern Turkey, Nakhichevan and the Nagorno-Karabakh of Azerbaijan and the Northern Iran. ASALA is engaged in terrorist actions against the citizens of Turkey and Azerbaijan. It collaborates with such terrorist organizations as Abu Nidal and the Dark September. The leader of the organization Akop Akopyan plays an important role in the relations with the mentioned organizations. He took the responsibility for the murder of the Turkish ambassador in Athens in 1980. His pseudonym is Mujahid. In an interview published in The New-York Times on August 1, 1980, he declared: Our enemy is the Turkish regime, NATO and those Armenians who do not cooperate with us.

In April 1980, ASALA reached an agreement in Lebanon with the Kurdish terrorist organization the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) on joint terrorist actions. In its statement disclosed in Beirut on August 28, 1993, ASALA announced that it would not allow the

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construction of a Pan-Turkish oil pipeline (Baku-Tbilisi-Jeyhan).

- Geqaron: founded by ASALA in the February of 2001. Its aim is to organize terrorist actions against political leaders, diplomats and businessmen of Turkic origin in the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia.

- Armenian Liberation Movement (AOD): founded in 1991 in France. It commits terrorist actions in close cooperation with ASALA.

- Armenian Liberation Front: founded in 1979, it is an integral part of ASALA. It is engaged in the training of terrorists against Turkey and Azerbaijan.

- Orly group: founded in 1981 by the youth of Armenian origin living in France. It committed over 10 terrorist acts in various airports of the world before 1987.

- Armenian genocide justice commandos: founded in 1972 in Vienna in the congress of Dashnaksutyun. Its purpose is to draw the young Lebanese citizens of Armenian origin to military formations, to organize terrorist actions against the Turkish and Azerbaijanis.

- Armenian Unity: founded in 1988 in Moscow. It has close links with ASALA, supplies the terrorists in the former Soviet space with false documents. It participates in the supply of Karabakh with arms and mercenaries.

- Democratic Front: It was founded in the United States, Canada and Western Europe. Its main aim is to split Turkey.

Apostle: founded on April 29, 2001 by the Union of the Defense of Armenia which consists mainly of the citizens of Armenia, Syria and Lebanon. Its aim is to commit terrorist actions in the territories of Turkey and Azerbaijan.

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**GENOCIDE OF AZERBAIJANI PEOPLE IN KHOJALY
TOWN IS THE CRIME AGAINST
PEACE AND MANKIND**

(analysis of national and international criminal legislation)

PART I

Khojaly as a fact of international crime

Genocide (Greek- γένος - clan, tribe and Latin caedo – I kill) is an international crime apparent in actions committed with the purpose to destroy totally or partly any national, ethnic, racial or religious group by the way of:

- Killing members of a group;
- Grave damnification to their health;
- forced prevention of procreation;
- coercive abdication of children;
- forced resettlement;
- arrangement of other living conditions, meant for destruction of this group.

Unfortunately, many cases of genocide acts can be found in the history of mankind beginning from ancient times up to our days. It is especially characteristic for the wars of annihilation and devastating invasions, campaigns of conquerors and inner ethnic and religious collisions in the period of division of the world and formation of colonial empires of European powers. The process of vehement strife for repartition of the world led to two world wars and colonial wars after World War II.

The genocide crime got an international legal status only in 1948 (“Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide”). Genocide is recognized not only as an international crime. Thus, criminal responsibility for genocide as a crime against

peace and security of mankind is in particular applied in the Azerbaijan Republic (Article 103 of the Criminal Code).

Public danger of genocide lies in the fact that, as a result of commitment of acts forming this crime, a definite national, ethnic, racial or religious group of people, characterized by originality of traditions, mode of life, culture and other features of life activity can become extinct fully or partly. It leads or can lead to pauperization of multiplicity of human community and undermines fundamentals of international legal order. It is proclaimed in the General declaration on human rights, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 December, 1948, that each person has the right to life, freedom and personal immunity; no one should be the subject to tortures or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and penalty; each person, wherever he or she is, has the right to recognition of his legal personality; all the people are equal before law and have the right to equal protection by law without distinction.

Genocide is the gravest violation of generally recognized principles and the international law standards, as well as human rights and freedoms.

From the objective part, genocide can become apparent in the commitment of one or several following acts:

- full or partial murder of members of a national, ethnic, racial or religious group of people;
- infliction of grave harm to the health of members of a national, ethnic, racial or religious group of people;
- forced prevention of procreation within the above mentioned groups of people;
- coercive abdication of children born in the midst of the mentioned groups of people in favour of representatives of other national, ethnic, racial or religious groups of people;
- arrangement of other living conditions leading to physical destruction of members of a national, ethnic, racial or religious group.

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The criminal consequence of the acts, forming genocide is intentional deprivation of life of members of the listed groups of people, causing grave harm to their health, deprivation of parents' opportunity to bring up their children in due living conditions, as well as violent deprivation of men's and women's ability for reproduction.

At that, a national group of people should be perceived as a group of people, related by belonging to a certain nationality independently of its living territory. A nation is understood as a historically formed group of people, characterized by commonality of a language, mentality and culture, as well as a living territory and other features of life and traditions.

An ethnic group is perceived as a group of people, connected by belonging of its members to a definite nation.

A racial group is understood as a group of people characterized by definite totality of secondary outward signs (colour of skin, hair, eyes, shape of a head, height etc.) and other historically formed innate features.

A religious group is a definite community of people practicing a respective religion, distinct from a religion dominant in a given society.

Forced prevention of procreation includes both illegal castration and sterilization of people at reproductive age and practice of forced abortion against a woman's will, as well as other violent acts directed to disturbance of procreation within such groups of people.

Coercive abdication of children of a certain national, ethnic or another group in favour of representatives of other national, ethnic and other groups of people is perceived as withdrawal of children from their parents against their will (free or for payment) and handing them over to other people who are not their relatives.

Forced resettlement of indicated in the law groups of people is their removal to other, unsuitable for them climatic and other

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natural conditions, which leads to the extinction of corresponding groups of people.

Arrangement of other living conditions, provided for physical destruction of members of such groups is understood as intended implementation of measures and actions making inevitable death of people under these or other circumstances (contaminating of natural habitat of an ethnic group with radioactive, chemical or biologic toxins and substances, prohibition to be occupied with the activity considered to be a basic source of existence of people group etc.).

Genocide is a consummated crime since the moment of appearance of the consequences indicated in the law. Upon absence of a causal connection between a sequel and perpetrated acts, a committed action does not produce components of genocide.

A subject of this crime can be both people, occupying state positions and private persons aged 16 and sane.

From the subjective part, genocide is characterized by a plain intent. The aim of a guilty one is total or partial destruction of a corresponding national, ethical, racial or religious group of people by the methods indicated in the law.

The Khojaly genocide should be included into the most known genocide facts of XX century. In fact, all the peaceful population of Khojaly town was wildly murdered during the Armenian armed aggression 15 years ago. Among mass murder cases in the mankind history, mass murder of Azerbaijanis in Khojaly got the name of “Khojaly slaughter”.

“Khojaly slaughter” is a mass murder of settlers of Azerbaijani Khojaly town by Armenian troops, which went down in history as the bloodiest tragedy of the Karabakh conflict. On the night of 26 February, 1992, Armenian troops, with the support of heavy weapons and personnel of the Stepanakert-based 366th Motorized Infantry Regiment of the former USSR, invaded Khojaly town. Hundreds of the town’s peaceful residents, including women and children died as a result.

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The storm of Khojaly by Armenian troops was predestined by its strategic location. The town, the population of which was about 6300 people in 1991, was situated 10 kilometers to the south-east of Stepanakert in the chain of the Karabakh Mountains. Aghdam-Shusha and Askeran-Stepanakert roads pass through Khojaly and the only airport in Karabakh is located there.

In view of the events of the latest years, 54 families of Meskhetian Turks escaped from Fergana (Uzbekistan), as well as Azerbaijanis expatriated from other settlements of Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia sheltered in the town. Just due to this reason, the construction of branches of the largest industrial enterprises of Azerbaijan, residential buildings and other public objects was expanded in the town.

Khojaly was practically blocked by Armenian troops since autumn 1991, but a complete blockade set in after the withdrawal of internal troops from Nagorno-Karabakh. Khojaly was not supplied with electric power since January 1992. A part of residents left the blocked town, however, complete evacuation of peaceful population was not arranged despite insistent requests of the head of Khojaly executive power E. Mammadov.

It was possible to get to the town only by helicopter: a short flight from Aghdam and then a jerky cork-screw landing. When American reporter Thomas Goltz made this terrible flight in January, a cold and unprotected town appeared before him. “Telephones did not work. Nothing worked in Khojaly: there was no electricity, heating or tap water”, -Goltz wrote – “helicopters were the only means of communication with outer world and each flight was of high-risk”. In all, less than 300 dwellers had been evacuated from Khojaly by 13 February, 1992 when the last helicopter flight was made.

Russian human rights center “Memorial”, conducting its own investigation of the tragedy circumstances asserts that there were 2-4 thousand residents in Khojaly by the moment of assault, including

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several hundreds of town defenders. Khojaly was protected by volunteers, personnel of Special Task Forces of the Azerbaijan Republic Ministry of Interior and soldiers of the Azerbaijan National Army. According to the information obtained from both sides, there were three units of armoured vehicles and an “Alazan” emplacement in the town. According to the assault participants and officials of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, there were also 2 “Grad” artillery mounts of volley fire in Khojaly.

The “Memorial” reports that according to officials of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, a “free corridor” was left for peaceful population of Khojaly, which started from eastern outskirts of the town, passed along the bed of the river and stretched to north-west, leading to Aghdam and leaving Askeran on the left. The width of the corridor was 100-200 meters and in some parts up to 300 meters. The Armenians promised not to fire at peaceful population and members of armed units leaving without arms and keeping within the bounds of this “corridor”. According to officials of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and participants of the assault, the population of Khojaly was notified of the existence of such “corridor” through loudspeakers installed on armored carriers at the beginning of the assault. However, reporting persons did not exclude that, a great part of Khojaly population might not have heard the information on a “free corridor” because of shooting and low power of loudspeakers.

60 people who escaped from Khojaly during the assault were questioned by observers of the “Memorial” in Aghdam and Baku. Only one of the inquired informed that he had been aware of the “free corridor” (a soldier of Khojaly garrison told him). Detained Khojaly settlers, with whom observers of the “Memorial” talked in presence of Deputy R. Ayrikyan in a Stepanakert temporary jail, had heard nothing about the “free corridor”.

PART II

The Khojaly massacre started on the night of 26 February. This day was possibly chosen in memory of Armenian massacres happened in Sumgait 4 years ago. Armenians were military supported by armoured carriers of the 366th Motorized Infantry Regiment of the Soviet Army. They encircled Khojaly from three sides and after that, Armenian soldiers entered the town and suppressed the resistance of defenders.

A part of population started to leave Khojaly trying to reach Agdam shortly after the beginning of the attack. Armed people from the town's garrison were among the groups of escaping people. People went in two directions as indicated in the report of the "Memorial" human rights organization:

From the outskirts of the town to south-east along the river-bed, leaving Askeran on the left (due to Armenian officials, just this way was left as a "free corridor");

From the south outskirts of the town to south-east leaving Askeran on the right (obviously, a lesser part of refugees went this way).

According to the "Memorial", "unstated quantity of peaceful settlers died in the territory of Khojaly during the slaughter as a result of shelling. The Armenian side refused to introduce information on a number of people died in such a way".

Due to the "Memorial", "a great stream of settlers rushed from the town along the river-bed (the 1st way). Armed people from the town garrison were among several groups of refugees. These refugees, passing along the "free corridor" in the territory adjoining to Agdam region of Azerbaijan were gunned and many died as a result. The survived refugees dispersed. Escaping people stumbled upon Armenian outposts and were shot down. A part of refugees could nevertheless pass to Agdam; a part, especially women and children (an exact number is impossible to determine) froze during

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wandering in the mountains and a part, according to people, who reached Agdam, was captured next to Pirjamal and Nakhichevanik villages. There are testimonies of interchanged Khojaly residents that some captives were later on shot down”.

A group of refugees, following the second way and leaving Askeran on their right, were also shot down.

These events happened in the period when Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Iran Islam Republic Ali Akbar Vilayati arrived in the region with intermediary mission. He met Azerbaijani administration in Baku on 25 February. On February 27, he should have flown to Karabakh and later to Armenia. In this connection, due to an agreement reached by the sides, 3-day cease-fire (February 27 - March 1) was announced, but it was also ignored by the Armenian side. It was the same on February 12 when the mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) arrived in Karabakh to get acquainted with the situation in the conflict territory and analyze an opportunity of its settlement, which later on had to visit Yerevan and Baku. Malybaily and Gushchular villages of Shusha region were occupied by Armenian invaders just on 12 February. As a result, the villages were totally plundered and burnt down. About 50 people were killed, wounded and taken hostage only in Malybaily village.

In those days, Azerbaijani forces were not able to break through to help Khojaly people. They could not even take away corpses. Meanwhile, special groups of Armenians in white camouflages searched for people on helicopters in forest tracks. The groups, coming out of the forest were shot down, captured and exposed to tortures.

A group of local journalists could get to the massacre place on two helicopters on 28 February. The tragic sight terrified everybody – a field was studded with dead bodies. Despite the air-cover of the second helicopter, they managed to take away only 4 corpses because of strong fire by Armenian militants. Russian TV

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reporter Yuri Romanov, who first arrived at the site of tragedy together with Azerbaijani journalist Chingiz Mustafayev, recounts: “I look out from a window (of a helicopter) and literally recoil from an improbably terrible picture. Dead people lie on the yellow grass of foothills where grey spots of snow and remains of winter snowdrifts are still melting in a shade. The huge square is studded up to the close garrison with corpses of young and old men and women, boys and girls of all ages from infants to minors.... An eye catches two figures from the jumble – a grandmother and a little girl. The grandmother with grey uncovered head lies on the earth face down together with a tiny girl in a blue jacket with a hood. Their legs are tied with barbwire for some reason and besides, the grandmother’s hands are tied too. Both were shot in the heads. With the last gesture, a little, 4-year-old girl stretches her hands to the murdered grandmother. Going dizzy, I do not even remember the camera at once....”

An awful picture of bloody war appeared before a group of foreign and local journalists on March 1 when they arrived at the site of tragedy. Torn to pieces bodies lied everywhere on the frozen ground. Anatol Lieven, the London “Times”, reported that “some of them, including one little girl had horrible wounds in their heads. Only her face remained intact.”

Correspondent of the “Izvestiya” paper V. Belykh stated that the bodies of killed people, exchanged for live hostage, were from time to time brought to Agdam. But it can not even appear in a nightmare: pricked out eyes, cut off ears, scalped and cut off heads... There were also sheaves of several bodies that had been long dragged over the ground, roped to armoured troop-carriers. Humiliations are boundless...”. He brings the evidence of helicopter pilot of Russian Air Forces Leonid Cravats (major): “I took away wounded people from Stepanakert on 26 February and was returning through Askeran gates. Several bright spots on the ground were

striking. I lost height and my flight mechanic cried: “Look, there are women and children down there”.

Yes, now I could also see about 200 killed and thrown all over the slope people. Some armed men were wandering among them. Later on, we flew to pick up bodies. A local police captain was together with us. He saw there his 4-year-old son with the crushed skull and went mad. The head of another child, whom we picked up before we started to be shot, was cut off. I could see maimed bodies of women, children and old men everywhere”.

The “Memorial” human rights organization states that, actions of Armenian armed forces of Nagorno-Karabakh in respect of peaceful Khojaly population during the storm of Khojaly town roughly contradict the Geneva Convention, as well as the following Articles of General Declaration on Human Rights (adopted by the UN General Assembly, 10.12.1948):

Article 2, declaring that each person should possess all the rights and freedoms proclaimed by the present Declaration without any distinction in respect of ...language, religion, national ...origin... or other status;

Article 3, recognizing the right of each person to life, freedom and personal immunity;

Article 5, banning crude, inhuman or degrading treatment;

Article 9, banning arbitrary arrests, detention or banishment;

Article 17, proclaiming the right of each person to ownership of property and banning arbitrary deprivation of property of a person.

Actions of armed forces roughly contradict the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict (proclaimed by the UN General Assembly, 14.12.1974.)”.

The “Memorial” reports that about 200 bodies were brought to Agdam within four days. Several tens of corpses had traces of malicious injuries.

At least four scalped bodies and a body with the cut off head were fixed by the doctors of a sanitary train of Agdam town. State

forensic medical examination of 181 bodies (130 male and 51 female, including 13 children) was carried out in Agdam. Experts concluded that bullet wounds were the reason for the death of 151 people, missile wounds – 20 people and blows with an obtuse object – 10 people. Furthermore, medical examination of some bodies, delivered from the Khojaly region was made in Baku”.

Besides those who died of gunshot wounds, tens of people died of cold and frostbite in forests. More than a thousand of Khojaly residents, including tens of Meskhetian Turks - refugees from Central Asia, were captured.

According to the official data of Azerbaijan authority, 485 people, including frozen to death, died as a result of this tragedy (T. de Waal “Black garden”). This number includes 63 children, 106 women and 70 aged. 8 families were completely annihilated, 25 children lost both parents and 130 lost only one parent. Besides, 487 people were wounded (76 of them are children). 1275 people were taken hostage and 150 people were missing.

According to Tom de Waal, the author of “Black Garden” book, even considering that people, who died not only in skirmish, but also of overcooling are registered here, this great figure overshadows the data on losses during all the history of Nagorno-Karabakh war. Retaliatory fire of Azerbaijanis was insignificant and it can by no means extenuate the cool-blooded murder in an open field of hundreds of helpless peaceful residents, including children.

The “Memorial” reports that “officials of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and members of Armenian troops explained the death of peaceful population within the “free corridor” by the fact that armed people, who shot at Armenian outposts, thereby causing retaliatory fire, were leaving together with refugees, as well as by the breach attempt by the Azerbaijani major forces. According to members of Armenian troops, attempt of armed breach towards the “free corridor” was made by Azerbaijani forces from Agdam side. At the moment when Armenian outposts were repulsing an attack, the

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first groups of Khojaly refugees approached them. Armed people started firing at Armenian outposts. One post was destroyed (2 people were killed and 10 were wounded), however, the fighters of another post, hidden to Azerbaijanis opened short range fire at the people streaming from Khojaly. Due to the testimonies of Khojaly refugees (including testimonies published in the press), armed people, moving in the stream of refugees went into action with Armenian outposts, but each time the Armenian side started shooting first.

The “Memorial” reports that mass violence against peaceful population of Khojaly town took place during the military operation. Information on existence of a “free corridor” was not brought to the notice of the majority of Khojaly people. Massacre of peaceful residents within the “free corridor” and adjacent territory can not be excused by any circumstances. As regards the participation of the 366th Motorized Infantry Brigade in the operations, the “Memorial” also demanded to conduct a special investigation over the facts of participation of the CIS soldiers in the military operations and hostilities in the conflict region, as well as the facts of handing over of military property to the formations of conflicting sides. The “Human Rights Watch” international human rights organization called the Khojaly tragedy “the greatest slaughter during the conflict”. In the opinion of the organization, the Armenian formations bear direct responsibility for the death of civil persons.

The “Memorial” reports that “more than 700 captive Khojaly settlers detained both in the town and on the way to Agdam, had been handed over to Azerbaijan side by 28 March, 1992 according to testimonies of both sides. The majority of them were women and children. Furthermore, the testimonies of Khojaly dwellers show that women and children, as well as men were kept as “exchange material”.

As regards the “Memorial”, the Supreme Soviet of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic issued a statement where it expressed

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regret over the cases of cruelty upon the capture of Khojaly. However, no attempt to investigate crimes connected with the capture of Khojaly was made. Officials did not deny in talks with the “Memorial” observers that atrocity could take place upon the capture of Khojaly, as there were embittered people among the members of Armenian troops whose relatives had been killed by Azerbaijanis, as well as people with the criminal past.

Tom de Waal cites Serge Sarkisyan, the present defense minister of Armenia: “Azerbaijanis thought they could make jokes with us until Khojaly; they thought that Armenians would not raise their hand to civil population. We managed to break this stereotype. Besides, it should be also taken into account that people who had escaped from Baku and Sumgait were among those boys”.

In De Waal’s opinion, “Sarkisyan’s appraisal allows viewing the most brutal massacre of the Karabakh war from another standpoint. It is not inconceivable that these massive murders were a preense act of frightening”.

We consider that these statements are mockery not only over the memory of innocent victims of this massacre, but also over the entire Azerbaijani nation. It should entail reaction of the world society. This statement, coming from the leader of military body, once again confirms the necessity and lateness of instituting a special international tribunal in regard to the Khojaly massacre in order to debar not only the similar tragedy, but also such kind of official statements. Especially since there are valid legal grounds for bringing these “persons” to international criminal responsibility under the criminal legislation of the Azerbaijan Republic. Thus, article 103 (Genocide) of the AR Criminal Code reads: “actions, directed to total or partial annihilation of a national, ethnic, racial or a religious group by murder of members of this group, infliction of grave harm to their health or serious harm to their mental abilities, arrangement of living conditions, provided for total or partial physical destruction of members of this group, implementation of

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measures directed to prevention of child birth inside a group and forced handing over of children of one group to another, are penalized by imprisonment from 10 to 15 years or by life imprisonment”.

Note: Crimes against security of humanity are recognized intended actions, provided by articles 103-113 of the given chapter and being a component part of large-scale or systematic attacks to civil population both in peaceful and war time.

Besides, according to article 1 of the Convention on Prevention and Punishment of Crime of Genocide, dated 9 December, 1948, genocide is considered a crime, breaking the standards of international law, independently of whether it is committed in peaceful or war time and which is subject to prevention and penalty by contracting parties.

Tens of children, women and old people were shot point-blank during this barbarous operation. Armenian terrorist organizations and hired armed formations destroyed the whole families and arranged “demonstrative” executions: rawed skin, cut off ears and scalped alive. Ordinary fascism: pregnant women were disemboweled...having taken out a baby...the cut off heads of their husbands...were pushed into the ripped up abdomens of already dead women...and then...abdomens were sewed up. All this is beyond description. One of active militants of the Armenian terrorist ASALA organization Vargen Sislyan, whose name is connected with the number of bloody terrorist acts committed worldwide, didn't hide from the press his implication to the murder of Azerbaijani children in Khojaly. It is characteristic that later on, V.Sislyan will be recognized a hero of the Karabakh war by initiative of President of the Armenian Republic Robert Kocharyan.

Armenian author Daud Kheyriyan, the participant of the Khojaly tragedy writes in his book: “On March 2, the Armenian “Gaflan” group (dealing with burning out corpses) picked up more than 100 corpses of Turks (Azerbaijanis – edit.) and burned them

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down about a kilometer far to the east of Khojaly...I saw a 10-year-old girl with wounded arms and forehead in the last car. This child with the face turned blue was still alive despite hunger, cold and wounds. She breathed faintly. I can't forget the eyes of that child struggling with death. Very soon, soldier named Tigranyan took this motionless girl and threw over other corpses. Later on, they were burnt. Someone seemed to be shouting among the burning corpses, begging for help ... After that, I couldn't walk any further". A film made by eminent Azerbaijani documentary producer Chingiz Mustafayev told the world about the bloody tragedy of Khojaly. A camera recorded children with cut off ears and scalped men. Armenian bearded men cut away the skin from the left side of an aged woman's face. All the corpses had traces of atrocious tortures. Destruction of Azerbaijani Khojaly town by Armenian terrorists was recognized in the USA "the largest tragedy of the year". Later on, the 366th Motorized Regiment was relocated to Russia and disbanded, nevertheless none of its officers responded for committed crimes.

The appeal of President of the Azerbaijan Republic to Azerbaijani nation connected with the 10th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy says: "This brutal and ruthless act of genocide entered the history of mankind as one of the most terrible mass terrorist acts... Today, the objective of Azerbaijan state and nation is to deliver the truth about Khojaly genocide and outrages committed by Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh as a whole with all their scales and horrors to states, parliaments and the public of the world to gain recognition of all this as an act of undoubted genocide. It is our civil and human duty in the memory of Khojaly victims. On the other side, adequate international and political legal evaluation of this tragedy and punishment of its ideologists, inspirers and executors is the important guarantee that such brutal acts, aimed against humanity as a whole will never repeat".

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February-March 1992. Foreign mass-media testified a genocide fact committed by Armenian terrorist and gangster groups in Khojaly town.

The “Washington Post” newspaper. Victims of the Nagorno-Karabakh war buried in a town of Azerbaijan: “Refugees tell that hundreds of people died during Armenian aggression. Bodies of 7 dead people were shown today; 2 of them were children and 3 were women. 120 refugees are in Agdam hospital; there are many stab wounds on their bodies”.

The “Times” newspaper. Armenian soldiers slaughtered hundreds of refugee families. The survived informed that Armenian soldiers shot more than 450 Azerbaijanis, many of whom were women and children. Hundreds and possibly thousands were missing. “They were shooting, shooting and shooting”, - Razin Aslanova who arrived in Agdam together with other women and children escaped from Khojaly said. Her husband Kayun and stepson were killed and her daughter was missing”.

Massacre is apparent. Anatoly Levin: - “More than 60 killed, including women and children were found on slopes of the hills in Nagorno-Karabakh, which verified statements on massacre of Azerbaijani refugees committed by Armenian troops. Hundreds of refugees have not been found up to now. Many people were mutilated and only the head remained from one little girl”.

The “Izvestiya” newspaper. A video camera showed children with cut off ears. One old woman’s half-face was chopped off. Men were scalped.

The “Sunday Times” newspaper. Tomas Goltz was the first reporter to inform on the massacre made by Armenian soldiers. “Khojaly was barren Azerbaijani town with empty shops and dirty roads without trees. Nevertheless, it was a house for thousands of Azerbaijanis who in better times tilled the fields and bred geese. It was razed to the ground last week”.

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The “Financial Times” newspaper. Armenians shot down a column of refugees moving to Agdam. Azerbaijanis recorded nearly 1200 corpses. A Lebanese cameraman attested that the rich Dashnak commune of his country sent weapons and people to Karabakh.

The “Izvestiya” newspaper. Major Leonid Kravetz: “I saw nearly hundred corpses on the hill. One boy was even without head. Corpses of grimly killed women, children and aged people were everywhere”.

The “Financial Times” newspaper. General Polyakov stated that 103 Armenian soldiers from the 366th regiment stayed in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The “La Mond” newspaper. Foreign journalists, visiting Agdam saw among the women and children killed in Khojaly scalped corpses with pulled out nails. It is not Azerbaijani propaganda, but reality.

The “Valer actual” journal. Armenian military formations in this autonomous region together with bullies from the Near East possess the most modern military equipment, including helicopters. ASALA has military camps and ammunition depots in Syria and Lebanon. Armenians annihilated Azerbaijanis of Karabakh making massacre in more than 100 Moslem villages.

The “Krua l’Eveneman” magazine. “Armenians attacked Khojaly region. The whole world witnessed disfigured corpses. The Azerbaijani speak about 1000 murdered”.

According to the scientific research of Expert Council of Institute on Human Rights of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan (reports of V. Ibayev and E. Gadirov), the above tragic events are interpreted in the international law as follows:

I. Khojaly genocide, as international crime against humanity

The juridical sense of “genocide” conception is determined by the Convention “On the Prevention and Punishment of Crime of Genocide” adopted by Resolution 260 A (III) of the UN General Assembly, dated December 1948 and specifies the following actions intended to total or partial destruction of any national, ethnic, racial or religious group: killing of members of a group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to the members of a group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; forcibly transferring children of the group to another group .

Existence of special intention is considered a requisite element for genocide crime. This objective feature distinguishes genocide crime from analogous international crimes. Each of the actions forming genocide crime is conscious and premeditated. These actions can be on no account committed accidentally or as a result of indiscretion. Meanwhile, intentions to commit such actions and general perception of their possible consequences are insufficient for their qualification as genocide. A special direction of a criminal or definite intention connected with negative consequences of an action is required to be uncovered here. Shooting from automatic machines, machine-guns and other types of weapons from beforehand laid ambushes of Azerbaijani civil population trying to survive, proves the genocide intention.

Orientation of this crime against Azerbaijani national group is evident. Three of its basic component parts are revealed upon the analysis of the genocide crime: 1) existence of a definite national, ethnic, racial or religious group; 2) existence of intentions to destroy such a group in whole or partially (*mens res*); 3) commitment of any actions, interpreted as genocide in respect of a definite group (*actus reus*).

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Consequently, a genocide act should be directed against a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, i.e. actions directed against other groups, for instance, political or social, could not be qualified as genocide. “Genocide” conception requires existence of a definite intention due to general consequences of prohibited actions. An intention, as a qualified sign of genocide crime unites several various component parts:

- an intention should not mean the accidental destruction of one or several persons, belonging to this or other definite group, but the destruction of a group in general. Not the individuality, but belonging to a group is the decisive sign of determination of genocide victims;

- an intention should mean the destruction of a group as such. Genocide is denial to recognize the right to existence of a whole human group, whereas a murder of an individual (homicide) is characterized as refusal to recognize the right to life of a separate individual.

Accordingly, actus reus (prohibited action) can be limited by one person, but mens res (intention) should be aimed against existence of a group;

- an intention should just mean the full or partial destruction of a group;

- an intention should mean the full or partial destruction of one of national, ethnic, racial or religious groups.

Achievement of a final result, as the destruction of a whole group is not required for qualification of responsibility for a genocide crime. Commitment of one of the actions, forming the objective side of a crime intended to destruct totally or partially an ethnic group as such is sufficient for it. The conception of destruction, being the objective side of genocide means deprivation of life through physical and biological influence. The UN International Court, in its decision on “Barcelona Traction” case specified obligations on prohibition of genocide acts as “erga

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omnes”. The International Court recognized principles, which underlied the Convention “On prevention of genocide crime and penalty for it” as standards of obligatory character for all the states.

II. Juridical grounds of recognition of Khojaly events by the international law as an act of genocide crime

The following documents allow qualifying Khojaly events based on the international law as an act of genocide crime: 1) The Convention “On the Prevention and Punishment of Crime of Genocide” adopted by Resolution 260 A (III) of the UN General Assembly on 9 December, 1948; 2) The Charter of Nuernberg Military Tribunal, (although a direct reference to genocide crime is absent in the Charter, the actions forming genocide are qualified here as crimes against humanity and military crimes; 3) The Charter of International Criminal Tribunal on Yugoslavia (Article 4); 4) The Charter of International Criminal Tribunal on Rwanda (Article I); 5) The Statute of International Criminal Court (Article 6); 6) The Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic (Article 103); 7) the Decree of President of the Azerbaijan Republic “On genocide of Azerbaijanis”, dated 26 March, 1998.

III. Juridical consequences of recognition by the international law of Khojaly events as a crime, coming under the “genocide” legal standard

In connection with genocide crime, the international law specified: 1) Criminal prosecution and penalty of people, committed genocide crime is inevitable; 2) Content of a crime is not only the commitment of a genocide act, but also a plot aimed at committing genocide, direct and public instigation to the commitment of genocide, attempt to commit genocide and participation in genocide;

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3) Principles of universal jurisdiction should be applied to people, committed a genocide crime; 4) Reference to execution of an order upon commitment of a genocide crime does not exempt from liability; 5) Leaders account for non-fulfillment of actions on prevention of genocide crimes; 6) Time limitation as to criminal liability is not applied to genocide crimes; 7) Retroactive application of the law is admitted in respect of genocide crimes; b) Persons who committed a genocide crime should be extradited to a charging country for bringing to criminal liability.

Thus, the actions committed against population of Khojaly town - ethnic Azerbaijanis by Armenians are qualified under international legal documents as genocide and they are considered a crime against mankind as provided by principles of the intentional law. Finally, the actions of Armenians and their accomplices, participated in the Khojaly tragedy is the grave violation of human rights, cynical disdain of international legal acts – the Geneva Convention, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the International Pact on civil and political rights, the International Pact on economical, social and cultural rights, the Declaration on children rights, the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict and other acts of the international law.

The Parliament of Azerbaijan declared the 26th of February of every year “The day of Khojaly genocide”. Azerbaijani nation honour the memory of Khojaly victims every year on February 26 at 17:00 with a minute of silence.

Khojaly residents who became refugees and temporarily sheltered in 48 regions of Azerbaijan are waiting for just settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, cessation of the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and restoration of territorial integrity of the republic. They appeal to nations of the world, states, and international organizations with calls to protect truth and justice, charge terrorism facts and ethnic purge committed in Khojaly.

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Persons guilty of the Khojaly tragedy, its inspirers and executors should suffer condign punishment. There should not be a crime without punishment. XX century knew a number of bloody pages, reflecting the history of genocide and ethnic purges. The Khojaly tragedy is one of the most terrible among them. The persons somehow involved in this monstrous crime still account only in the face of their conscience, but the day will come and they will account answer for everything before the court history.

Dr. Kamil Salimov

“Prison Watch” Public Association

**KHOJALY GENOCIDE
AS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY**

Today, there exist various interpretations of the term “genocide”. For example, it is interpreted as coordinated plan of different activities directed to the destruction of main strongholds of national groups. Aim behind this plan can be disintegration of political and social institutes, culture, language, national thoughts, religion and economic existence of national groups, and also threat to personal security, liberties, harming health, humiliation of dignity and physical destruction of individuals concerning those groups.

For the first time the term “genocide” (genos – family, tribe or race (Greek); caedere – to kill, to massacre (lat.)) related to proper actions was used by Polish lawyer of Jewish origin Rafael Lemkin - who worked at the US Defense Department. In his works “Fascist control of occupied Europe” (1944) and “Genocide as a crime according to International Law” (1947) he used term “genocide”. According to Rafael L. two phases of genocide exist:

Destruction of national identity of oppressed group;

Influencing national identity of oppressing group in coercive manner.

Genocide received its International legal status only after World War 2 in December of 1948. In the “Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide” genocide is defined as a conception determining the most serious crime against humanity. Nazis acts perpetrated in World War 2 have led to new forms of interpretation of the term “genocide”: “political genocide” – full destruction of national government; “social genocide” is expressed in the attempts to weaken national-spiritual strongholds, especially by attacking intellectuals; “cultural genocide” – prohibition of use of local language, coercive education in the spirit of national-socialism, and also tough control of culture in general including rude expression of this policy in the form of burning

libraries; “economic genocide” – destruction of national-economic life manner bases; “biological genocide” – application of various measures on lowering the level of birth rates among non-German population, for example separation of men from women in coercive manner, intentional creation of atmosphere where parents encounter lack of food with the purpose of decreasing life ability of children born from those parents and, on contrary, providing high standards of living for German origins by allocating funds for children born from German military servicemen; “physical genocide” – in the form of mass killing of certain population group members, also racial discrimination when coming to distribution of food products; “religious genocide” – destruction of fundamentals of religion and teaching national-socialism instead; “moral genocide” – an attempt to destruct certain national group by spreading alcoholism and pornography among this group.

Deep research of genocide in the frames of International Law as grave crime against security of humanity has found its real reflection in institutionalized form. On these bases many principles and norms of international law concerning this crime occurred. Those principles and norms were adopted in the frames of Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948 directed to the protection of national minorities.

In the article two of this Convention genocide is determined as "any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a [national](#), [ethnic](#), racial or [religious](#) group, as such:

- a) Killing members of the group;
- b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life, calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; and forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

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In the process of institutionalization such categories of genocide as political, economic and religious were placed into another analogous sphere of international law – “human rights”.

Genocide acts are usually perpetrated in the period of armed conflicts, because during this period there exists favorable condition for this crime. That is why this crime was included in the statutes of Nuremberg trials and other following ad hoc tribunals. Particularly, in the article 6 of Nuremberg Trials Statute genocide is included in the context as constructive and affirmative part of crimes against humanity perpetrated during the war. In the shown article crime includes “murder, mass killings, slavery, deportation and other inhumane acts perpetrated against civilians before or during the war, and also haunt on the political, racial or religious ground for any crime committed that corresponds under jurisdiction of Tribunal irrespective of whether national legislation of the state where a crime was committed is violated or not”.

Founded by Order of National-revolutionary Council of Cambodia on July 15 1979 National-revolutionary tribunal on the investigation of Pol-pot – Yieng Sari and their supporters carried out investigation on the act of perpetration of genocide. In the article one of the upper mentioned Order genocide was determined as planned mass killings of civilians, banishment of population from cities and countries and its concentration in “communities”, forcing to hard labor in the conditions leading to physical and physiological destruction of a person, destruction of religion, destruction of economic and cultural structures, family and public relations.

The difference of this determination of genocide from the one in 1948 Convention against genocide shows that in the practice change in conventional determination of crime is not excluded when it is implemented into national law. In order not to violate the principle of absence of back force of law, the Order of National-revolutionary Council of Cambodia took into consideration

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international-legal condition which has determined genocide as a crime before its commitment by polpotians.

According to article 3 of the Convention on genocide not only genocide demands penal sentence, but also this includes conspiracy with the purpose of commitment of genocide, direct or public incitement to perpetrate this crime, and also attempt or common participation in the crime. Although the act of genocide itself can be perpetrated in the territory of one state, but the upper mentioned criminal acts that assist the commitment of genocide can be perpetrated also in the territory of other states.

Universal jurisdiction in relation to the persons accused in genocide is set in the Convention. First of all, they should be examined by competent court of that state in the territory of which the crime was committed. Second, to view a concrete issue An International criminal court with proper jurisdiction can be established.

Modern genocides started not in XX century – genocide acts of the USA, England and Belgium in American West, India and Congo in XIX century point out at their early roots. Although there are important differences between the genocides of XIX and XX-XXI centuries, all of them have one common driving force – they are related to imperial structure or replies to challenges of empires. The well known genocide acts in the world practice are the following:

Massacre of Jewish (see Holocaust) and gypsies in fascist Germany in the period of 1935-1945, and also massacre of civilians living in the European states occupied by Germany during World War 2 (the European part of USSR and other Eastern European state nations lost more people);

Slaughter of three million Cambodians by Pol Pot and Yieng Sari regimes during 1974-1979 in Cambodia;

Genocide in Rwanda in 1994.

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There is an opinion that Soviet government also perpetrated genocide act during 1932-1933 in Ukraine when massive people died from starving (this opinion is not accepted by many scholars – see Starving in Ukraine), and also massive killings on ethnic ground and ethnic cleansing conducted through Armenian-Azerbaijan, Georgian-Abkhazian, Georgian-Osetin conflicts, moreover ethnic clash of central Asian republics (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan). One of the recent examples of genocide is – massive slaughter in Rwanda as a result of which representatives of Khutu tribe massacred 800 thousand members of Tutsi tribe. Thus, genocide can have an international character or just like armed conflicts, it can be internal. International genocide was committed by American regular arms during “dirty” war in Vietnam. Inner state genocide was perpetrated by “red khmers” in Cambodia under the leadership of Pol Pot and Yieng Sari. As a result of their order in 1975-1979 3 million Cambodians or every third citizen died. National minorities, religious people, origins of other countries were slaughtered; children of early ages were killed in massive order. The accused were orally sentenced to death penalty according to norms of Order of National-revolutionary Council of Cambodia for genocide. To persons who committed genocide expiration date is not applied. On November 8, 1994 Statute of International tribunal for Rwanda was adopted. It covered court prosecution of persons who are responsible for genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law perpetrated in the territory of Rwanda and neighboring countries during the period between January 1 1994 and December 31 1994. *(430) Persons accused in genocide were sentenced by International Tribunal and national courts of Rwanda according to the rules of parallel jurisdiction.

Genocide is recognized as a crime by international law in terms of genocide crime included in the list of acts on which International Criminal Court applies its jurisdiction; During Rome conference this issue was supported unanimously, however the

contradictions were demonstrated on the other crimes. Thus in general Roman Statute fully expressed the determination of genocide given in the Convention of 1948. Although Statute project prepared by Commission on International Law and passed to General Assembly in 1994 while listing genocide among the crimes fitting under jurisdiction of the Court did not include its determination, later on during the Roman Statute preparatory work it was decided to use the determination of genocide given in the Convention of 1948. This was not rejected by anyone. Article 6 of Roman Statute determines genocide as any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Genocide in the Penal Code of Azerbaijani Republic is strictly adapted to the one given in international convention and displays its meaning in fact as in text. Very briefly and concretely, four groups of population, against which the genocide is directed, are shown – national, ethnic, racial and religious. Along with this in the legislature of other states genocide is enlarged on the account of increase of group quantities – suffering from genocide and also has different meaning. Thus, according to Penal legislature of Poland while not using the term “genocide”, its meaning is formulated as following: “an act intended to destroy whole or in part national, ethnic, racial or religious group, or murdering or harming a group member”.

Also there is a punishment for creation of hard conditions for those groups where there is a danger of biological destruction,

deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part, imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group, forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Implementation of international norms in Polish Penal Code is displayed as a type of transformation. However, along with this the Code seriously differs from international-legal determination of genocide, and it is not accepted during implementation. Except four groups against which genocide is directed, it includes political groups and groups with certain points of view. Those conceptions are not legal and can be interpreted differently. International Law tries to avoid other expressions such as “political crimes” and “political contents and aims”.

Penal law passed in 1998 in the Republic of Latvia has the analogous explanations. Other than national, ethnic and religious groups who faced genocide certain social groups of people and groups of people of certain prejudices are recognized. This baseless and far from international-legal determination of genocide lets ruling regime members to use this against their political opponents. Thus, in Latvia criminal cases are prosecuted against the workers of National Committee of Internal Affairs who before military period performed obligatory order – applied administrative exile of citizens beyond the borders of republic. As it is clear, those kinds of rude violations of legislature took place in USSR in the end of 20s – beginning of 30s, when thousands of people were exiled to Siberia. Stalin repressions were accused by XX meeting of CPSU, history, political science, penal law. But to count these acts as genocide is not legally right.

We should mention that the term “genocide” is used as political-publicist opinion in press, not as legal conception and international penal crime. For example, some right about genocide against Russian regime of ex-president B.N.Yeltsin or genocide of I.V.Stalin against repressed soviet citizens. Genocide crime here is

defined deliberately as whole or in part destruction of population groups. This kind of intention is absent here. But intentional realization of Hitler's comprehensive plan of killing Jewish and Slavic nations during world war two – is indisputable genocide.

Today recognition of genocide fact in international scale is in its turn a problematic question. In many cases the power that is accused of genocide act does not want to recognize it; the opposite happens only rarely, and then often genocide act is recognized already by heirs of power that committed it. Often genocide is recognized only by some third states. All this leads to impunity and to creation of conditions for commitment of this international crime again.

For many centuries Armenian “fascists” conducted policy of cruel terror and genocide against Azerbaijani nation. Thus, 300 years ago Russian emperor Peter I draw contours of future empire. Sending messengers to the south he ordered them: “you should try to attract them (Armenians) to our lands in order to make a back to Russia”. And beginning from the XIX century with the signing of Gulustan (1813) and Turkmenchay (1828) treaties on the division of Azerbaijani territory between Russia and Iran began realization of plan on creation of “Armenian state” in the territory of ancient Azerbaijan. As a result about 300 thousand Armenians living in the territory of Iran and Turkey were moved to Azerbaijan and accommodated in the territory of Irevan (now Yerevan), Upper Karabakh, Nakhichevan, Zangezur, Dereleyez, Ordubad, Vedibasar. In spite of this number of Azerbaijanis living in these regions still exceeded number of Armenians. For example, in 1886 in Zangezur region of Ganja province out of 326 villages only 81 were Armenians. Population of Irevan region consisted of 66 percent of Azerbaijanis and 34 percent of Armenians. And to reach quantitatively exceeding number of Armenians in regard to Azerbaijani population there began bloody policy of genocide. Hundreds of Azerbaijani villages were set to fire in Zangezur,

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Irevan, Nakhichevan, Ordubad, Gazakh, Karabakh and other regions of Azerbaijan with the native population being ruthlessly diminished. On March 30 1918 after long preparation of Dashnak forces and Bolsheviks under the leadership of Shaumyan began genocide against the population of Baku. Starting from March 30 till April 2 only in Baku there were killed 12 thousand Azerbaijanis, among them were the old, children and women.

There are tens of documents proving the fact that representatives of Armenian intelligence and Armenian church participated in the firing and profaning of Muslim corpses. “Ismailliya” – one of the most beautiful buildings in Baku was set to fire. Publishing house of the newspaper “Open word” was destroyed. Most of the population of Baku left the city. Its majority in the search of secure place became refugees and had to flee to Central Asia and Iran. After carnage in Baku menshevik newspaper “Our voice” wrote: “Burnt human corpses were all around in piles”. In the centre of the city next to a Mosque “Teze Pir” you could watch a horrible picture. The Mosque seriously was damaged as a result of shootings.

Crimes committed by Armenians in Baku were repeated in Quba, Khachmaz, Lankaran, Hajiqabul, Salyan and in a very brutal way in Shamakhi. We should mention that in Shamakhi were killed seven thousand people, in Guba – sixteen thousand, in Lankaran and Astara – thousand, in Salyan and Hajiqabul – two thousand Muslim population. Their houses were flamed, and their property was confiscated. In 1918 was created Extraordinary Commission with the purpose of investigation of genocide committed against Azerbaijani nation. Russian and Jewish were the most who witnessed. All those comments and expressions typed in 1918-1919 are obvious proof of crimes accredited by Armenian bandits.

Undeniable fact is that in 1918-1920 Dashnaks razed to ground lands of hundreds of Azerbaijani villages and countries, massacred thousands of women, the old and children in Baku,

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Shemakha, Zangezur, Surmeli, Irevan, Echmiadzin, Sharur, Basarkecherde, Gazakh, Ganja, Karabakh. During genocide out of 575000 Azerbaijanis living in the territory of modern Armenia were killed and exiled 565 thousand people. This number is even confirmed by Armenian author Z. Kardokyan in his book. Till Soviets took power in Armenia in November 1920, 10 thousand Azerbaijanis were living in this territory. In 1922 only 60 thousand Azerbaijani refugees could come back to their native lands.

Only through XX century Azerbaijani population of Armenia was exposed to violence 4 times by Armeian bandits and exiled from their native lands:

First stage	1905-1907
Second stage	1915-1920
Third stage	1948-1953
Fourth stage	1986-1988

In 1943 during the work of Tehran conference while discussing Soviet-Iran relations Armenian diaspora appealed to the minister of foreign affairs V.Molotov. They asked to move Armenians from Iran to USSR. Molotov reported this fact to Secretary General of Communist Party I. Stalin, and received official permission on the movement of Armenians. Secretary of Central Commission of Communist Party Q.Arutyunov, taking advantage of this permission managed the decision of forced deportation of Azerbaijanis from Armenia and movement of Armenians living abroad to Armenia.

Council of Ministers of USSR adopted direction on “About moving village people of Azerbaijani origin from Armenian SSR to Kura-Araz region of Azerbaijani SSR”.

During the next deportation of Azerbaijanis in 1948-1953 (by Stalin) the main issue that Armenians concentrated on was the emptying economically, socially and morally strong and strategic

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zones. Because of this on the first stage Irevan was cleaned from Azerbaijani natives and only then the other regional centers were emptied.

Because a part of departed population lived in mountainous regions of Armenia those people could not adjust to climate changes of Kura-Araz plain. That's why the people moved to Kura-Araz plain died in masses.

On the other side, none of departed Azerbaijanis from Armenia was allowed to move to Mountainous Karabakh. On the contrary, planning the realization of "Great Armenia" the cleaning of this territory continued. In 1949 under the pretext of internal replacement 132 (549 persons) families were deported to Khanlar region of Azerbaijan.

At the same time operation on the change of local area names of Azerbaijan was conducted, education and cultural centers were blocked and regions were merged. In 1947-1953 names of 60 populated areas with Azerbaijani origins were changed. And in general between 1921 and 1988 hundreds of areas populated by mostly Turkish origins were forced to change their names.

The idea behind the trickery of Armenians expressed during deportation was that during the process of deportation of Azerbaijanis from Armenia only few numbers of people were left their native lands. The rest of people who became the minorities were coercively exiled from the country on the next stage – during final and full cleaning of Armenian territory from Azerbaijanis.

Starting from January 1988 Armenians began realization of their policy "Armenia without Turks". Armenian government, committees "Karabakh" and "Krunk", representatives of Echmiadzin church under the patronage of USSR perpetrated thousands of bloody actions during the exile of Azerbaijanis.

As a result of ethnic cleansing 185 populated areas were emptied from Azerbaijanis, more than 250 thousand Azerbaijanis and 18 thousand Kurds were forcefully exiled from their native

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lands; more than 200 Azerbaijanis were killed by Armenians. Out of them 49 people tried to escape from Armenian threat and died in the mountains because of frost, 41 persons died as a result of cruel beatings, 35 persons died from brutal tortures, 115 persons were burnt, 16 persons were shoot, 10 people couldn't stand the tortures and died from heart attack, 2 people were killed by doctors in the hospital and the rest were drown in the water, hung, killed by electric or had their heads cut off.

But this inhumane genocide policy of Armenians didn't stop. One of the most horrible tragedies that Azerbaijani nation encountered in XX century became known as Khojaly genocide. Khojaly tragedy – bloody action that became a part of history of humanity along with genocides committed in Khatin, Lidits, Oradur.

In the night from February 25 to 26th in 1992 Armenian armed forces, Armenian armed forces of Mountainous Karabakh of Azerbaijan with the direct participation of 366th motor shooting regiment of former USSR placed in Khankendy took the town Khojaly that was located between Khankendy and Askeran and as a result horrible genocide policy was perpetrated against Azerbaijani nation. In the early morning Khojaly inhabitants accompanied by a few OMON troops came to the plain not far from the Armenian village Nakhichevanik. Here they were shot by Armenian army that was placed in the mountains over that plain. Azerbaijani Police fired in advance, but the forces were not equal and they also were shot. More and more refugees continued to flee to the same place. According to the eye witness Hijran Alakbarova, former inhabitant of Khojaly in her interview to the organization "Human Rights Watch" she said: "We reached Nakhichevanik at 9 in the morning. There was field full of dead people. I think there were about one hundred people. I didn't try to count them. I was wounded in this field. Alif Hajiyev was shot here, I tried to help him. They shot me right on my stomach. I saw where they shoot from. I saw many

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corpses in this field. They were killed just recently –the color of their skin didn't change yet”.

The journalists and investigators who came here after several days saw a horrible bloody carnage picture. Corpses torn apart were lying everywhere on the frozen field. Anatol Liven from London Times wrote that “on some of them, especially on the body of little girl were horrible wounds. Only here face survived”.

Azerbaijani prosecutor Yusif Agayev saw gunpowder on the wounds and came to a conclusion that most of the victims were shot at a short distance: “They were shot from very close distance. We came to the place where it all happened. I am the specialist and it was clear for me immediately”. Besides of those people who were shot, tens of people died from frost in the woods. More than thousand inhabitants of Khojaly were taken captives; among them were tens of Meskhetian Turks and refugees from Central Asia.

Thus, huge number of killed people as a result of Khojaly genocide exceeds the number of losses during whole Mountainous Karabakh war period. During Khojaly massacre only during one night 613 civilians were murdered including 63 children, 106 women, 70 old men. Vicious atrocities were conducted only because of the fact that civilians of Khojaly – were Azerbaijanis. Practically, all of them were tortured and killed with special ruthlessness: people were decapitated, their eyes were pricked out, and they ripped up stomachs of pregnant women by bayonets. On that night in the conquest directly participated the second battalion of 366th regiment under the leadership of Major Ohanyan Seyran Musheqovich (Ohanyan Seyran right now is “the Minister of Defence” of so called illegal regime – Upper Karabakh), third battalion of 366th regiment, under the leadership of Yevqeniy Nabokikh, head of staff of first battalion Chityan Valeriy Isayevich and more than 50 officers and warrant officers of Armenian origin serving in those regiments. (see “Materials from the investigation of Khojaly occupation”)

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Part of the city population that tried to flee from brutal atrocities was trapped and was killed. In the message of Russian human rights protection center “Memorial” it was highlighted that during four days 200 corpses of Azerbaijanis were brought to Agdam, facts were proved that tens of corpses were profaned. In Agdam 181 corpses (130 masculine and 51 feminine, and 13 children corpses) went court-medical expertise. During the examination it was proved that 151 people died from bullet wounds, 20 – shrapnel wound, 10 people were killed by stabbing blunt objects. Human Rights Protection Center also pointed out the fact of removal of scalp from alive people.

From indications of witnesses of Khojaly Genocide

Azerbaijani children killed by Armenians had their breasts unstitched and their heart was split. The majority of corpses were split into pieces.

Jamal Abdoulhuseyn Haydarov: “on the distance of 2 kilometers from a farm near the district named Garagaya were many disfigured corpses of Azerbaijanis. Azerbaijani children killed by Armenians had their breasts unstitched and their heart was split. The majority of corpses were split into pieces.”

Shahin Zulfugar Haydarov: he saw about 80 corpses near Nakhchivannik village (Khojaly). Corpses have been terribly disfigured, spoiled and decapitated. Among killed there was also a major of militia Alef Hajiyev, his close relatives Salimov Fakhraddin and Salimov Michael.

Jalil Gumbataly Gumbatov: in front of his eyes his wife – Firuza, son Mukan, daughter Simuzar and daughter-in-law Sudaba were shot by Armenians

Kubra Adil Pashayeva: she went to the woods named Katik and was trapped by Armenians. In the bushes where she was hiding, Kubra became an eye witness of the shooting of her husband Pashayev Shura Tapdiq, and her son Pashayev Elshad Shura.

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Khazangul Tevekkul Amirova: During occupation of Khojaly the Armenian insurgents have taken her all family in hostages. Armenians have shot her mother - Raya, her 7-year old sister Yegana, aunt Goycha, and her father Amirov Tevekkul was burnt by poured over gasoline.

Zoya Ali Aliyeva: for three days she hid in the woods with the rest of other 150 Khojaly inhabitants. Akhmadova Dunya and her sister Gulkhar that hid with her died from frost.

Kubra Alish Mustafayeva: “As soon as Armenians have taken us hostage, they shot at once 6 persons who were with me”

Saida Gurban Karimova: “12 people including me were taken hostage. Armenians killed my daughter Nazakat by brutally torturing her. They shoot Tapdiq, Irada, Saadet”.

Ali Agami Najafov: “Armenians, having surrounded escaping people, have shot on a place 30-40 persons”.

After news about slaughter in Khojaly became publicly known many simply refused to believe in it as till that time the world mass media shining the conflict, basically represented Armenians as a victim of this conflict, but not as aggressors. And still now Armenians do not deny any more, that during flight from Khojaly many Azerbaijani civilian inhabitants were killed. Some accuse the Armenian civil guardsmen, as if they operated autocratically. The employee of the Armenian police major Valery Babayan considers, that the main motive of those events was personal revenge. He has told to the American journalist Pol Kuin-Judge that many participating in an attack on Khojaly Armenians, "came from Sumgait and other similar places ". When Armenian military leader Serzha Sarkisyan have asked to tell about capture Khojaly, he has cautiously answered: "We prefer to not speak aloud about it ". As to number of victims, as he said, " much has been exaggerated ", and escaped Azerbaijanis have rendered armed resistance. However in occasion of perpetrated events Sarkisyan has expressed more fairly and more rigidly: "But I think that the main question was absolutely

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in other. Before Khojaly Azerbaijanis thought, that it is possible to joke with us, they thought, that Armenians are not capable to lift a hand on civilians. We have managed to break this stereotype. Here that has occurred. Also it is necessary to consider still, that among those boys there were the people run from Baku and Sumgait ".

Thus, with all accuracy it is necessary to qualify Khojaly events as a crime of the genocide, being the international crime and which should be accompanied by punishment of corresponding persons for the villainy accomplished by them!!! This is proved by generally accepted international documents as following:

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide adopted by the UN General Assembly on 9 December 1948 and came into effect on 12 January 1951 (Resolution 260 (III)).

Statute of Nuremberg Tribunal (although in the Statute direct link on genocide is absent, perpetrated genocide acts are qualified as crimes against humanity and military crimes);

Statute of International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (Article 4);

Statute of International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (Article 1);

Statute of International Criminal Court (Article 6);

And also the following inner state documents:

Penal Code of Azerbaijani Republic (Article 103);

Order of the President of Azerbaijani Republic "On genocide of Azerbaijanis" March 26 1998

Accordingly legal consequences of recognition of Khojaly events by international law as the crimes falling under the rule of law norm "genocide" are:

Criminal prosecution and punishment of the people committed genocide crime is inevitable;

Structure of a crime is not only commitment of genocide act, but also plot with the purpose of commitment of a genocide, direct

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and public instigation to commitment of a genocide, attempt at commitment of a genocide and partnership in a genocide;

Principles of universal jurisdiction should be applied to the persons committed crimes of a genocide;

The reference to execution of the order at commitment of a crime of a genocide does not relieve from the responsibility;

Chiefs bear the responsibility for unrealized actions on prevention of a crime of a genocide;

To crimes of a genocide the limitation period to application of the criminal liability is not applied;

It is supposed retroactive application of the law in relation to a crime of a genocide;

The persons, who have made crimes of genocide, should be given out to the demanding country for bringing to the criminal liability.

Thus, the actions accomplished against the population in the city of Khojaly - ethnic Azerbaijanis by Armenians, according to the international legal documents, are qualified as a genocide and according to principles of international law are a crime against humanity and punishment of corresponding persons is not only a duty of Armenia, but also a duty of all World community, for " a genocide, both menacing, and really existing, practically in all cases, if not always is a threat to peace. With genocide per se one should struggle with the powerful and incorporated political efforts, and in unusual cases also with application of military actions.

Dr. Rustam Mammadov

Leyli A. Guseynova

Caspian – Partnership for Future

**KHOJALY GENOCIDE
AS AN INTERNATIONAL CRIME**

The legal definition of genocide was provided for by the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 9, 1948 (resolution number 260 (III)) as any of the following acts committed with an intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- killing members of the group;
- causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- imposing measures intended to prevent birth within the group;
- forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Special intention is a prerequisite for an act to be qualified as genocide. This aspect distinguishes genocide from similar international crimes. All actions to be qualified as genocide, must be committed deliberately. Such actions cannot be taken incidentally or negligently. However, merely having an intent to commit acts, mentioned above, as well as general understanding of their possible consequences is not enough to qualify them as genocide. What is required here, is revelation of the link between the specific intent of the perpetrator and the harmful results of his/her conduct. Nonetheless, direct and public incitement to commit genocide is a complete crime regardless of whether actual harm was caused or not.

In Khojaly case, the existence of the genocidal intent can be inferred, inter alia, from the fact that special traps were prepared in advance and then used for shooting civil Azeris, who were trying to escape.

Khojaly genocide: million signatures – one demand

The fact that those acts were aimed at the Azeri national group was also obvious.

The analysis of the crime of genocide shows that there are three major elements thereof:

- victims of the above-mentioned violent acts must belong to a particular national, ethnical, racial or religious group;
- there must be a specific intent (*mens rea*) to destroy such group in whole or in part;
- any of the genocidal acts must be actually committed (*actus reus*).

Consequently, genocide can be committed only against certain national, ethnical, racial or religious group. Similar actions directed against, for example, political or social group cannot be qualified as genocide.

The concept of genocide requires the existence of a specific intent regarding general consequences of an illegal deed. As a feature of genocide, intent includes following aspects:

- intent must not to be directed against one or more persons belonging to a certain group, but rather to the group as such. In other words, the qualifying criteria is not the victims' personalities, but their being a member of the certain group;
- intent must be aimed at a group, as such. Genocide means denial to accept the right to exist of entire human group. To the contrary, killing of a human being (homicide) is characterized as a denial of the right to exist of an individual being. Consequently, *actus reus* (prohibited act) may be committed against even one person, but *mens rea* (intent) must be directed against the existence of the entire human group;
- intent must contain the desire to destroy a group in whole or in part;
- such group must be national, ethnical, racial or religious.

It is not required that a group be indeed totally or partially destroyed, so that the responsibility for genocide be inferred. For

that, it is necessary that the acts, constituting the material element of the crime concerned, be committed with such intent.

The concept of extermination, which constitutes a material element of genocide, includes, inter alia, killings by means of different methods.

The International Court of Justice held in its judgment on Barcelona Traction case that prohibiting acts of genocide constituted an erga omnes obligation. The ICJ has considered the basic principles of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide as a part of the customary international law obligatory for all states.

Legal basis for qualification of Khojaly massacre as an international crime.

The following instruments must be considered as a legal basis for qualifying Khojaly massacre as an international crime.

1. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (came into force in 1951) adopted by UN General Assembly on December 9, 1948 (resolution number 260 (III)).

2. Statute of the Nuremberg Military Tribunal (although this statute does not point out genocide actions directly, these actions constituting genocide are considered to be crimes against humanity and war crimes);

3. Statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (par. 4);

4. Statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (par. 1);

5. Statute of the International Criminal Court (par. 6):

6. Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan (par. 103);

7. Decree of the President of Azerbaijan On genocide of Azeris dated March 26, 1998.

**Legal consequences of the Khojaly massacre
at the international level.**

The international law determines the following regarding genocide:

1. Persons who committed genocide must be tried and punished;

2. Not only perpetrators, but also those who conspired or directly and publicly incited to commit genocide must be held responsible.

3. The principle of universal jurisdiction must be applied;

4. Acting in furtherance of an order must not exempt the perpetrator from responsibility;

5. Superiors must bear responsibility for failure to prevent the acts of genocide;

6. Statutory limitations must not be applicable to the crime of genocide;

7. With regard to genocide, the retroactive application of the law is allowed;

8. Perpetrators must be either tried and punished by the detaining state or extradited to the requesting one.

Informing the international community about the fact that Khojaly tragedy, as an international crime, was a constituent part of the policy of genocide carried out by Armenia against the people of Azerbaijan.

This document named "The tragedy in Khojaly, being an international crime, is a constituent part of the genocidal policy

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carried out by Armenia against the people of Azerbaijan", adopted by the Board of Experts of the Institute on Human Rights (Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences) will be sent to the parliaments of Azerbaijan, Turkey, Georgia, Russia and other countries, as well as the international organizations, including UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, General Directorate on Human Rights of the Council of Europe, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutes and Human Rights, international human rights NGO's, Azeri Diaspora.

Thus, the acts committed by Armenian side against the ethnic Azeri population of the Khojaly city are qualified in accordance with the international legal documents as genocide and a crime against humanity.

* * *

More than a million of people having undergone aggressive policy of Armenia live under hard conditions - they have found asylum in tent stations, houses-in-built, luggage wagons and other places unavailable to live.

State of Armenia paid no attention to the word of international world by showing full distrust towards UN Security Council's resolutions 822 adopted in 1993 in April on occupation of territories of Azerbaijan Republic by Armenian army, 853 adopted in June, 874 adopted in October and 884 adopted in November.

Regular, fundamental and firm political line carried out by state of Azerbaijan, constructive attitude of Azerbaijan Republic for fair settlement of Karabakh problem is known well by world states. Major directions for settlement of problem in a peaceful manner and through talks were approved and confirmed by 53 states of the world in OSCE Lisbon Summit in December of 1993.

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All we are residents of this planet and we together should conduct firm fight against those threatening our common house with death and blood. We deeply believe that states, parliaments, international organizations in the world will support restoration of equity for happy life of nations having entered the XXI century, for equity, for high humanist values. Supporting the settlement of Karabakh problem in a peaceful manner and through talks, we once again express our certainty that due to joint efforts of states, parliaments, international organizations in the world territorial integrity of Azerbaijan Republic will be ensured and refugees and IDPs will return to their native lands.

Scientific-Research Institute on Human Rights

**CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION AND PUNISHMENT
OF THE CRIME OF GENOCIDE**

Adopted by Resolution 260 (III) A of the U.N. General Assembly on 9 December 1948.

Entry into force: 12 January 1951.

The Contracting Parties,

Having considered the declaration made by the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution 96 (I) dated 11 December 1946 that genocide is a crime under international law, contrary to the spirit and aims of the United Nations and condemned by the civilized world,

Recognizing that at all periods of history genocide has inflicted great losses on humanity, and

Being convinced that, in order to liberate mankind from such an odious scourge, international co-operation is required,

Hereby agree as hereinafter provided:

Article I: The Contracting Parties confirm that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law which they undertake to prevent and to punish.

Article II: In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Article III: The following acts shall be punishable:

- (a) Genocide;
- (b) Conspiracy to commit genocide;
- (c) Direct and public incitement to commit genocide;

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(d) Attempt to commit genocide;

(e) Complicity in genocide.

Article IV: Persons committing genocide or any of the other acts enumerated in article III shall be punished, whether they are constitutionally responsible rulers, public officials or private individuals.

Article V: The Contracting Parties undertake to enact, in accordance with their respective Constitutions, the necessary legislation to give effect to the provisions of the present Convention, and, in particular, to provide effective penalties for persons guilty of genocide or any of the other acts enumerated in article III.

Article VI: Persons charged with genocide or any of the other acts enumerated in article III shall be tried by a competent tribunal of the State in the territory of which the act was committed, or by such international penal tribunal as may have jurisdiction with respect to those Contracting Parties which shall have accepted its jurisdiction.

Article VII: Genocide and the other acts enumerated in article III shall not be considered as political crimes for the purpose of extradition.

The Contracting Parties pledge themselves in such cases to grant extradition in accordance with their laws and treaties in force.

Article VIII: Any Contracting Party may call upon the competent organs of the United Nations to take such action under the Charter of the United Nations as they consider appropriate for the prevention and suppression of acts of genocide or any of the other acts enumerated in article III.

Article IX: Disputes between the Contracting Parties relating to the interpretation, application or fulfillment of the present Convention, including those relating to the responsibility of a State for genocide or for any of the other acts enumerated in article III, shall be submitted to the International Court of Justice at the request of any of the parties to the dispute.

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Article X: The present Convention, of which the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall bear the date of 9 December 1948.

Article XI: The present Convention shall be open until 31 December 1949 for signature on behalf of any Member of the United Nations and of any nonmember State to which an invitation to sign has been addressed by the General Assembly.

The present Convention shall be ratified, and the instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

After 1 January 1950, the present Convention may be acceded to on behalf of any Member of the United Nations and of any non-member State which has received an invitation as aforesaid. Instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article XII: Any Contracting Party may at any time, by notification addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, extend the application of the present Convention to all or any of the territories for the conduct of whose foreign relations that Contracting Party is responsible.

Article XIII: On the day when the first twenty instruments of ratification or accession have been deposited, the Secretary-General shall draw up a process-verbal and transmit a copy thereof to each Member of the United Nations and to each of the non-member States contemplated in article XI.

The present Convention shall come into force on the ninetieth day following the date of deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.

Any ratification or accession effected, subsequent to the latter date shall become effective on the ninetieth day following the deposit of the instrument of ratification or accession.

Article XIV: The present Convention shall remain in effect for a period of ten years as from the date of its coming into force.

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It shall thereafter remain in force for successive periods of five years for such Contracting Parties as have not denounced it at least six months before the expiration of the current period.

Denunciation shall be effected by a written notification addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article XV: If, as a result of denunciations, the number of Parties to the present Convention should become less than sixteen, the Convention shall cease to be in force as from the date on which the last of these denunciations shall become effective.

Article XVI: A request for the revision of the present Convention may be made at any time by any Contracting Party by means of a notification in writing addressed to the Secretary-General.

The General Assembly shall decide upon the steps, if any, to be taken in respect of such request.

Article XVII: The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall notify all Members of the United Nations and the non-member States contemplated in article XI of the following:

- (a) Signatures, ratifications and accessions received in accordance with article XI;
- (b) Notifications received in accordance with article XII;
- (c) The date upon which the present Convention comes into force in accordance with article XIII;
- (d) Denunciations received in accordance with article XIV;
- (e) The abrogation of the Convention in accordance with article XV;
- (f) Notifications received in accordance with article XVI.

Article XVIII: The original of the present Convention shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations.

A certified copy of the Convention shall be transmitted to each Member of the United Nations and to each of the non-member States contemplated in article XI.

Article XIX: The present Convention shall be registered by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the date of its coming into force.

**UNITED NATIONS
Security Council Distr.
GENERAL
Original: ENGLISH
RESOLUTION 822 (1993)
Adopted by the Security Council at its 3205th meeting, on 30
April 1993**

The Security Council,

Recalling the statements of the President of the Security Council of 29 January 1993 (S/25199) and of 6 April 1993 (S/25539) concerning the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General dated 14 April 1993 (S/25600),

Expressing its serious concern at the deterioration of the relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan,

Noting with alarm the escalation in armed hostilities and, in particular, the latest invasion of the Kalbadjar district of the Republic of Azerbaijan by local Armenian forces,

Concerned that this situation endangers peace and security in the region,

Expressing grave concern at the displacement of a large number of civilians and the humanitarian emergency in the region, in particular in the Kalbadjar district,

Reaffirming the respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States in the region,

Reaffirming also the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory,

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Expressing its support for the peace process being pursued within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and deeply concerned at the disruptive effect that the escalation in armed hostilities can have on that process,

Demands the immediate cessation of all hostilities and hostile acts with a view to establishing a durable cease-fire, as well as immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces from the Kalbadjar district and other recently occupied areas of Azerbaijan;

Urges the parties concerned immediately to resume negotiations for the resolution of the conflict within the framework of the peace process of the Minsk Group of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and refrain from any action that will obstruct a peaceful solution of the problem;

Calls for unimpeded access for international humanitarian relief efforts in the region, in particular in all areas affected by the conflict in order to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population and reaffirms that all parties are bound to comply with the principles and rules of international humanitarian law;

Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman-in-Office of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe as well as the Chairman of the Minsk Group of the Conference to assess the situation in the region, in particular in the Kalbadjar district of Azerbaijan, and to submit a further report to the Council;

Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

SC Resolution #853 (1993)

UNITED NATIONS

Security Council Distr.

GENERAL

Original: ENGLISH

RESOLUTION 853 (1993)

**Adopted by the Security Council at its 3259th meeting, on 29
July 1993**

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolution 822 (1993) of 30 April 1993,

Having considered the report issued on 27 July 1993 by the Chairman of the Mink Group of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) (S/26184),

Expressing its serious concern at the deterioration of relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Azerbaijani Republic and at the tensions between them,

Welcoming acceptance by the parties concerned at the timetable of urgent steps to implement its resolution 822 (1993),

Noting with alarm the escalation in armed hostilities and, in particular, the seizure of the district of Agdam in the Azerbaijani Republic,

Concerned that this situation continues to endanger peace and security in the region,

Expressing once again its grave concern at the displacement of large numbers of civilians in the Azerbaijani Republic and at the serious humanitarian emergency in the region,

Reaffirming the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijani Republic and of all other States in the region,

Reaffirming also the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory,

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Condemns the seizure of the district of Agdam and of all other recently occupied areas of the Azerbaijani Republic;

Further condemns all hostile actions in the region, in particular attacks on civilians and bombardments of inhabited areas;

Demands the immediate cessation of all hostilities and the immediate complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces involved from the district of Agdam and all other recently occupied areas of the Azerbaijan Republic;

Calls on the parties concerned to reach and maintain durable cease-fire arrangements;

Reiterates in the context of paragraphs 3 and 4 above its earlier calls for the restoration of economic, transport and energy links in the region;

Endorses the continuing efforts by the Minsk Group of the CSCE to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict, including efforts to implement resolution 822 (1993), and expresses its grave concern at the disruptive effect that the escalation of armed hostilities has had on these efforts;

Welcomes the preparations for a CSCE monitor mission with a timetable for its deployment, as well as consideration within the CSCE of the proposal for a CSCE presence in the region;

Urges the parties concerned to refrain from any action that will obstruct a peaceful solution to the conflict, and to pursue negotiations within the Minsk Group of the CSCE, as well as through direct contacts between them, towards a final settlement;

Urges the Government of the Republic of Armenia to continue to exert its influence to achieve compliance by the Armenians of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic with its resolution 822 (1993) and the present resolution, and the acceptance by this party of the proposals of the Minsk Group of the CSCE;

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Urges States to refrain from the supply of any weapons and munitions which might lead to an intensification of the conflict or the continued occupation of territory;

Calls once again for unimpeded access for international humanitarian relief efforts in the region, in particular in all areas affected by the conflict, in order to alleviate the increased suffering of the civilian population and reaffirms that all parties are bound to comply with the principles and rules of international humanitarian law;

Requests the Secretary-General and relevant international agencies to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the affected civilian population and to assist displaced persons to return to their homes;

Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE as well as the Chairman of the Minsk Group, to continue to report to the Council on the situation;

Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

**SC Resolution #874 (1993)
UNITED NATIONS
Security Council Distr.
GENERAL
RESOLUTION 874 (1993)
Adopted by the Security Council at its 3292nd meeting, on 14
October 1993**

The Security Council,
Reaffirming its resolutions 822 (1993) of 30 April 1993 and 853 (1993) of 29 July 1993, and recalling the statement read by the President of the Council, on behalf of the Council, on 18 August 1993 (S/26326),

Having considered the letter dated 1 October 1993 from the Chairman of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Minsk Conference on Nagorno-Karabakh addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/26522),

Expressing its serious concern that a continuation of the conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic, and of the tensions between the Republic of Armenia and the Azerbaijani Republic, would endanger peace and security in the region,

Taking note of the high-level meetings which took place in Moscow on 8 October 1993 and expressing the hope that they will contribute to the improvement of the situation and the peaceful settlement of the conflict,

Reaffirming the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijani Republic and of all other States in the region,

Reaffirming also the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory,

Khojaly genocide: million signatures – one demand

Expressing once again its grave concern at the human suffering the conflict has caused and at the serious humanitarian emergency in the region and expressing in particular its grave concern at the displacement of large numbers of civilians in the Azerbaijani Republic,

Calls upon the parties concerned to make effective and permanent the cease-fire established as a result of the direct contacts undertaken with the assistance of the Government of the Russian Federation in support of the CSCE Minsk Group;

Reiterates again its full support for the peace process being pursued within the framework of the CSCE, and for the tireless efforts of the CSCE Minsk Group;

Welcomes and commends to the parties the Adjusted timetable of urgent steps to implement Security Council resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993) set out on 28 September 1993 at the meeting of the CSCE Minsk Group and submitted to the parties concerned by the Chairman of the Group with the full support of nine other members of the Group, and calls on the parties to accept it;

Expresses the conviction that all other pending questions arising from the conflict and not directly addressed in the adjusted timetable should be settled expeditiously through peaceful negotiations in the context of the CSCE Minsk process;

Calls for the immediate implementation of the reciprocal and urgent steps provided for in the CSCE Minsk Group's Adjusted timetable, including the withdrawal of forces from recently occupied territories and the removal of all obstacles to communications and transportation;

Calls also for an early convening of the CSCE Minsk Conference for the purpose of arriving at a negotiated settlement to the conflict as provided for in the timetable, in conformity with the 24 March 1992 mandate of the CSCE Council of Ministers;

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Requests the Secretary-General to respond favourably to an invitation to send a representative to attend the CSCE Minsk Conference and to provide all possible assistance for the substantive negotiations that will follow the opening of the Conference;

Supports the monitoring mission developed by the CSCE;

Calls on all parties to refrain from all violations of international humanitarian law and renews its call in resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993) for unimpeded access for international humanitarian relief efforts in all areas affected by the conflict;

Urges all States in the region to refrain from any hostile acts and from any interference or intervention which would lead to the widening of the conflict and undermine peace and security in the region;

Requests the Secretary-General and relevant international agencies to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the affected civilian population and to assist refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes in security and dignity;

Requests also the Secretary-General, the Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE and the Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference to continue to report to the Council on the progress of the Minsk process and on all aspects of the situation on the ground, and on present and future cooperation between the CSCE and the United Nations in this regard;

Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

SC Resolution #884 (1993)

UNITED NATIONS

Security Council Distr.

GENERAL

RESOLUTION 884 (1993)

**Adopted by the Security Council at its 3313th meeting, on 12
November 1993**

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolutions 822 (1993) of 30 April 1993, 853 (1993) of 29 July 1993 and 874 (1993) of 14 October 1993,

Reaffirming its full support for the peace process being pursued within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and for the tireless efforts of the CSCE Minsk Group,

Taking note of the letter dated 9 November 1993 from the Chairman-in-Office of the Minsk Conference on Nagorno-Karabakh addressed to the President of the Security Council and its enclosures (S/26718, annex),

Expressing its serious concern that a continuation of the conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic, and of the tensions between the Republic of Armenia and the Azerbaijani Republic, would endanger peace and security in the region,

Noting with alarm the escalation in armed hostilities as consequence of the violations of the cease-fire and excesses in the use of force in response to those violations, in particular the occupation of the Zangelan district and the city of Goradiz in the Azerbaijani Republic,

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Reaffirming the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijani Republic and of all other States in the region,

Reaffirming also the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory,

Expressing grave concern at the latest displacement of a large number of civilians and the humanitarian emergency in the Zangelan district and the city of Goradiz and on Azerbaijan's southern frontier,

Condemns the recent violations of the cease-fire established between the parties, which resulted in a resumption of hostilities, and particularly condemns the occupation of the Zangelan district and the city of Goradiz, attacks on civilians and bombardments of the territory of the Azerbaijani Republic;

Calls upon the Government of Armenia to use its influence to achieve compliance by the Armenians of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic with resolutions 822 (1993) , 853 (1993) and 874 (1993) , and to ensure that the forces involved are not provided with the means to extend their military campaign further;

Welcomes the Declaration of 4 November 1993 of the nine members of the CSCE Minsk Group (S/26718) and commends the proposals contained therein for unilateral cease-fire declarations;

Demands from the parties concerned the immediate cessation of armed hostilities and hostile acts, the unilateral withdrawal of occupying forces from the Zangelan district and the city of Goradiz, and the withdrawal of occupying forces from other recently occupied areas of the Azerbaijani Republic in accordance with the Adjusted timetable of urgent steps to implement Security Council resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993) (S/26522, appendix), as amended by the CSCE Minsk Group meeting in Vienna of 2 to 8 November 1993;

Strongly urges the parties concerned to resume promptly and to make effective and permanent the cease-fire established as a result of the direct contacts undertaken with the assistance of the Government of the Russian Federation in support of the CSCE Minsk Group, and to continue to seek a negotiated settlement of the

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conflict within the context of the CSCE Minsk process and the Adjusted timetable, as amended by the CSCE Minsk Group meeting in Vienna of 2 to 8 November 1993;

Urges again all States in the region to refrain from any hostile acts and from any interference or intervention, which would lead to the widening of the conflict and undermine peace and security in the region;

Requests the Secretary-General and relevant international agencies to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the affected civilian population, including that in the Zangelan district and the city of Goradiz and on Azerbaijan's southern frontier, and to assist refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes in security and dignity;

Reiterates its request that the Secretary-General, the Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE and the Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference continue to report to the Council on the progress of the Minsk process and on all aspects of the situation on the ground, in particular on the implementation of its relevant resolutions, and on present and future cooperation between the CSCE and the United Nations in this regard;

Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

**CONFERENCE FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN
EUROPE
FIRST ADDITIONAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELSINKI
MARCH 1992
SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS**

The Ministers expressed their deep concern about the continuing escalation of the armed conflict in and around Nagorno-Karabakh and the resulting increased suffering and loss of life of the inhabitants. They held an extensive discussion of ways and means to end the conflict, bearing in mind the implications for regional and international security which could result from its continuation and further extension. They called upon all parties to exercise restraint.

The Ministers reiterated in the strongest terms the call for an immediate and effective cease-fire including an active commitment by responsible local commanders to its implementation. They issued an appeal for the re-establishment of conditions for confidence and constructive dialogue, including the cessation of measures of economic and political constraint.

The Ministers reviewed the ongoing action within the CSCE framework and endorsed in their entirety the decisions taken by the Committee of Senior Officials. They expressed their appreciation for the activities of the Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE undertaken in this connection and stressed their willingness to extend all possible assistance to him whenever it is needed.

The Ministers welcomed the complementary efforts made by the European Community and its member States, by the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States, by the members

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of the North Atlantic Co-operation Council, and, in particular, the efforts made by the United Nations Secretary-General.

They requested the Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE to keep in close contact with the United Nations in this respect and to arrange for regular exchanges of information.

The Ministers agreed that the CSCE must play a major role in promoting a peace process relating to the conflict. They agreed that the situation in and around Nagorno-Karabakh requires further CSCE action.

The Ministers mandated the Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE Council of Ministers, Mr. Jiri Dienstbier, to visit the region shortly in order to contribute, in particular, to the establishment and maintenance of an effective cease-fire as well as to the establishment of a framework for an overall peaceful settlement.

The Ministers expressed their firm conviction that a conference on Nagorno-Karabakh under the auspices of the CSCE would provide an ongoing forum for negotiations towards a peaceful settlement of the crisis on the basis of the principles, commitments and provisions of the CSCE. The Ministers therefore requested the Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE Council of Ministers to convene such a conference as soon as possible.

The Ministers furthermore agreed that this Conference, which will take place in Minsk, will have as participants Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Russian Federation, Sweden, Turkey and United States of America. Elected and other representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh will be invited to the Conference as interested parties by the Chairman of the Conference after consultation with the States participating at the Conference. The Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE Council will appoint the Chairman of the Conference on Nagorno-Karabakh under the auspices of the CSCE.

The Ministers urged all CSCE participating States and all concerned parties to take all necessary steps to ensure that

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humanitarian assistance is provided to all those in need through rapid and effective means including safe corridors under international control.

The Ministers noted the commitment of Armenia and Azerbaijan to fully support the mission of the Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE Council to the region as well as other actions on which the CSCE Council has agreed and appeal to these two countries to pursue actively this commitment to reach a lasting, peaceful solution.

**CONFERENCE FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN
EUROPE**

**1994 SUMMIT
BUDAPEST**

**5-6 DECEMBER 1994
BUDAPEST DOCUMENT 1994
TOWARDS A GENUINE PARTNERSHIP IN A NEW ERA**

**BUDAPEST DECISIONS II
REGIONAL ISSUES
INTENSIFICATION OF CSCE ACTION IN RELATION TO
THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT**

1. Deploring the continuation of the conflict and the human tragedy involved, the participating States welcomed the confirmation by the parties to the conflict of the cease-fire agreed on 12 May 1994 through the mediation of the Russian Federation in co-operation with the CSCE Minsk Group. They confirmed their commitment to the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and welcomed the political support given by the Security Council to the CSCE's efforts towards a peaceful settlement of the conflict. To this end they called on the parties to the conflict to enter into intensified substantive talks, including direct contacts. In this context, they pledged to redouble the efforts and assistance by the CSCE. They strongly endorsed the mediation efforts of the CSCE Minsk Group and expressed appreciation for the crucial contribution of the Russian Federation and the efforts by other individual members of the Minsk Group. They agreed to harmonize these into a single coordinated effort within the framework of the CSCE.

2. To this end, they have directed the Chairman-in-Office, in consultation with the participating States and acting as soon as possible, to name co-chairmen of the Minsk Conference to ensure a common and agreed basis for negotiations and to realize full coordination in all mediation and negotiation activities. The co-chairmen, guided in all of their negotiating efforts by CSCE principles and an agreed mandate, will jointly chair meetings of the Minsk Group and jointly report to the Chairman-in-Office. They will regularly brief the Permanent Council on the progress of their work.

3. As a first step in this effort, they directed the co-chairmen of the Minsk Conference to take immediate steps to promote, with the support and co-operation of the Russian Federation and other individual members of the Minsk Group, the continuation of the existing cease-fire and, drawing upon the progress already achieved in previous mediation activities, to conduct speedy negotiations for the conclusion of a political agreement on the cessation of the armed conflict, the implementation of which will eliminate major consequences of the conflict for all parties and permit the convening of the Minsk Conference. They further requested the co-chairmen of the Minsk Conference to continue working with the parties towards further implementation of confidence-building measures, particularly in the humanitarian field. They underlined the need for participating States to take action, both individually and within relevant international organizations, to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of the region with special emphasis on alleviating the plight of refugees.

4. They agreed that, in line with the view of the parties to the conflict, the conclusion of the agreement mentioned above would also make it possible to deploy multinational peacekeeping forces as an essential element for the implementation of the agreement itself. They declared their political will to provide, with an appropriate resolution from the United Nations Security Council, a multinational CSCE peacekeeping force following agreement among the parties

for cessation of the armed conflict. They requested the Chairman-in-Office to develop as soon as possible a plan for the establishment, composition and operations of such a force, organized on the basis of Chapter III of the Helsinki Document 1992 and in a manner fully consistent with the Charter of the United Nations. To this end the Chairman-in-Office will be assisted by the co-chairmen of the Minsk Conference and by the Minsk Group, and be supported by the Secretary General; after appropriate consultations he will also establish a high-level planning group in Vienna to make recommendations on, inter alia, the size and characteristics of the force, command and control, logistics, allocation of units and resources, rules of engagement and arrangements with contributing States. He will seek the support of the United Nations on the basis of the stated United Nations readiness to provide technical advice and expertise. He will also seek continuing political support from the United Nations Security Council for the possible deployment of a CSCE peacekeeping force.

5. On the basis of such preparatory work and the relevant provisions of Chapter III of the Helsinki Document 1992, and following agreement and a formal request by the parties to the Chairman-in-Office through the co-chairmen of the Minsk Conference, the Permanent Council will take a decision on the establishment of the CSCE peacekeeping operation.

**ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN
EUROPE
1996 SUMMIT
LISBON
2-3 DECEMBER 1996
STATEMENT
OF THE OSCE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE**

You all know that no progress has been achieved in the last two years to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the issue of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan. I regret that the efforts of the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Conference to reconcile the views of the parties on the principles for a settlement have been unsuccessful.

Three principles which should form part of the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict were recommended by the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group. These principles are supported by all member States of the Minsk Group. They are:

-territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia and the Azerbaijan Republic;

-legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh defined in an agreement based on self-determination which confers on Nagorno-Karabakh the highest degree of self-rule within Azerbaijan;

-guaranteed security for Nagorno-Karabakh and its whole population, including mutual obligations to ensure compliance by all the Parties with the provisions of the settlement.

I regret that one participating State could not accept this. These principles have the support of all other participating States.

This statement will be included in the Lisbon Summit documents.

**ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN
EUROPE
ISTANBUL SUMMIT
1999
ISTANBUL DOCUMENT 1999
ISTANBUL 1999**

We received the report of the Co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group on the evolving situation and recent developments connected with the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and commend their efforts. We applaud in particular the intensified dialogue between the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan, whose regular contacts have created opportunities to speed up the process of finding a lasting and comprehensive solution to the problem. We firmly support this dialogue and encourage its continuation, with the hope of resuming negotiations within the OSCE Minsk Group. We also confirm that the OSCE and its Minsk Group, which remains the most appropriate format for finding a solution, stand ready to further advance the peace process and its future implementation, including by providing all necessary assistance to the parties.

We welcome the opening of an OSCE Office in Yerevan this year and the decision to open a similar office in Baku. These steps will enable the OSCE to strengthen our co-operation with Armenia and Azerbaijan.

RESOLUTION 1416 (2005)9
THE CONFLICT OVER THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH
REGION DEALT WITH BY THE OSCE MINSK
CONFERENCE

1. The Parliamentary Assembly regrets that, more than a decade after the armed hostilities started, the conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region remains unsolved. Hundreds of thousands of people are still displaced and live in miserable conditions. Considerable parts of the territory of Azerbaijan are still occupied by Armenian forces, and separatist forces are still in control of the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

2. The Assembly expresses its concern that the military action, and the widespread ethnic hostilities which preceded it, led to large-scale ethnic expulsion and the creation of mono-ethnic areas which resemble the terrible concept of ethnic cleansing. The Assembly reaffirms that independence and secession of a regional territory from a state may only be achieved through a lawful and peaceful process based on the democratic support of the inhabitants of such territory and not in the wake of an armed conflict leading to ethnic expulsion and the de facto annexation of such territory to another state. The Assembly reiterates that the occupation of foreign territory by a member state constitutes a grave violation of that state's obligations as a member of the Council of Europe and reaffirms the right of displaced persons from the area of conflict to return to their homes safely and with dignity.

3. The Assembly recalls Resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993) of the United Nations Security Council and urges the parties concerned to comply with them, in particular by refraining from any armed hostilities and by withdrawing military forces from any occupied territories. The Assembly also aligns itself with the demand expressed in Resolution 853 of the United Nations

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Security Council and thus urges all member states to refrain from the supply of any weapons and munitions which might lead to an intensification of the conflict or the continued occupation of territory.

4. The Assembly recalls that both Armenia and Azerbaijan committed themselves upon their accession to the Council of Europe in January 2001 to use only peaceful means for settling the conflict, by refraining from any threat of using force against their neighbours. At the same time, Armenia committed itself to use its considerable influence over Nagorno-Karabakh to foster a solution to the conflict. The Assembly urges both governments to comply with these commitments and refrain from using armed forces against each other and from propagating military action.

5. The Assembly recalls that the Council of Ministers of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) agreed in Helsinki in March 1992 to hold a conference in Minsk in order to provide a forum for negotiations for a peaceful settlement of the conflict. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, the former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, France, Germany, Italy, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Turkey and the United States of America agreed at that time to participate in this conference. The Assembly calls on these states to step up their efforts to achieve the peaceful resolution of the conflict and invites their national delegations to the Assembly to report annually to the Assembly on the action of their government in this respect. For this purpose, the Assembly asks its Bureau to create an ad hoc committee comprising, inter alia, the heads of these national delegations.

6. The Assembly pays tribute to the tireless efforts of the co-chairs of the Minsk Group and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, in particular for having achieved a ceasefire in May 1994 and having constantly monitored the observance of this ceasefire since then. The Assembly calls on the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs to take immediate steps to conduct

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speedy negotiations for the conclusion of a political agreement on the cessation of the armed conflict. The implementation of this agreement will eliminate major consequences of the conflict for all parties and permit the convening of the Minsk Conference. The Assembly calls on Armenia and Azerbaijan to make use of the OSCE Minsk Process and to put forward to each other, via the Minsk Group, their constructive proposals for the peaceful settlement of the conflict in accordance with the relevant norms and principles of international law.

7. The Assembly recalls that Armenia and Azerbaijan are signatory parties to the Charter of the United Nations and, in accordance with Article 93, paragraph 1 of the Charter, ipso facto parties to the statute of the International Court of Justice. Therefore, the Assembly suggests that if the negotiations under the auspices of the co-chairs of the Minsk Group fail, Armenia and Azerbaijan should consider using the International Court of Justice in accordance with Article 36, paragraph 1 of its statute.

8. The Assembly calls on Armenia and Azerbaijan to foster political reconciliation among themselves by stepping up bilateral inter-parliamentary co-operation within the Assembly as well as in other forums such as the meetings of the speakers of the parliaments of the Caucasian Four. It recommends that both delegations should meet during each part-session of the Assembly to review progress on such reconciliation.

9. The Assembly calls on the Government of Azerbaijan to establish contact, without preconditions, with the political representatives of both communities from the Nagorno-Karabakh region regarding the future status of the region. It is prepared to provide facilities for such contacts in Strasbourg, recalling that it did so in the form of a hearing on previous occasions with Armenian participation.

10. Recalling its Recommendation 1570 (2002) on the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Armenia, Azerbaijan

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and Georgia, the Assembly calls on all member and Observer states to provide humanitarian aid and assistance to the hundreds of thousands of people displaced as a consequence of the armed hostilities and the expulsion of ethnic Armenians from Azerbaijan and ethnic Azerbaijanis from Armenia.

11. The Assembly condemns any expression of hatred portrayed in the media of Armenia and Azerbaijan. The Assembly calls on Armenia and Azerbaijan to foster reconciliation and to restore confidence and mutual understanding among their peoples through schools, universities and the media. Without such reconciliation, hatred and mistrust will prevent stability in the region and may lead to new violence. Any sustainable settlement must be preceded by and embedded in such a reconciliation process.

12. The Assembly calls on the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to draw up an action plan for support to Armenia and Azerbaijan targeted at mutual reconciliation processes, and to take this resolution into account in deciding on action concerning Armenia and Azerbaijan.

13. The Assembly calls on the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe to assist locally elected representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan in establishing mutual contacts and interregional co-operation.

14. The Assembly resolves to analyse the conflict-settlement mechanisms existing within the Council of Europe, in particular the European Convention for the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes, in order to provide its member states with better mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of bilateral conflicts as well as internal disputes involving local or regional territorial communities or authorities which may endanger human rights, stability and peace.

15. The Assembly resolves to continue monitoring on a regular basis the evolution of this conflict towards its peaceful resolution and decides to reconsider this issue at its first part-session in 2006.

KHOJALY EVENTS IN WORLD MASS-MEDIA

Newsweek, 16 March 1992

THE FACE OF A MASSACRE: *By Pascal Privat with Steve Le Vine in Moscow.* Azerbaijan was a charnel house again last week: a place of mourning refugees and dozens of mangled corpses dragged to a makeshift morgue behind the mosque. They were ordinary Azerbaijani men, women and children of Khojaly, a small village in war-torn Nagorno-Karabakh overrun by Armenian forces on Feb. 25-26. Many were killed at close range while trying to flee; some had their faces mutilated, others were scalped. While the victims' families mourned.

The New York Times, March 3, 1992

MASSACRE BY ARMENIANS: *Agdam, Azerbaijan, March 2 (Reuters)* - Fresh evidence emerged today of a massacre of civilians by Armenian militants in Nagorno-Karabakh, a predominantly Armenian enclave of Azerbaijan.

Scalping Reported - Azerbaijani officials and journalists who flew briefly to the region by helicopter brought back three dead children with the back of their heads blown off. They said shooting by Armenians has prevented them from retrieving more bodies.

"Women and children have been scalped," said Assad Faradshev, an aide to Nagorno-Karabakh's Azerbaijani Governor. "When we began to pick up bodies, they began firing at us."

The Azerbaijani militia chief in Agdam, Rashid Mammadov, said: "The bodies are lying there like flocks of sheep. Even the fascists did nothing like this."

Truckloads of Bodies - Near Agdam on the outskirts of Nagorno-Karabakh, a Reuters photographer, Frederique

Lengaigne, said she had seen two trucks filled with Azerbaijani bodies.

"In the first one I counted 35, and it looked as though there were as many in the second," she said. "Some had their head cut off, and many had been burned. They were all men, and a few had been wearing khaki uniforms."

The Sunday Times, 1 March 1992

ARMENIAN SOLDIERS MASSACRE HUNDREDS OF FLEEING FAMILIES: By Thomas Goltz, Agdam, Azerbaijan - Survivors reported that Armenian soldiers shot and bayoneted more than 450 Azeris, many of them women and children. Hundreds, possibly thousands, were missing and feared dead.

The attackers killed most of the soldiers and volunteers defending the women and children. They then turned their guns on the terrified refugees. The few survivors later described what happened: "That's when the real slaughter began", said Azer Hajiev, one of three soldiers to survive. "The Armenians just shot and shot. And then they came in and started carving up people with their bayonets and knives" (but don't tell that these words were said by an Azeri. If the newspaper took the responsibility to publish it, it is more than sure, having the facts that it took place). "They were shooting, shooting, shooting", echoed Rasia Aslanova, who arrived in Agdam with other women and children who made their way through Armenian lines. She said her husband, Kayun, and a son-in-law were massacred in front of her. Her daughter was still missing. One boy who arrived in Agdam had an ear sliced off. The survivors said 2000 others, some of whom had fled separately, were still missing in the grueling terrain; many could perish from their wounds or the cold. By late yesterday, 479 deaths had been registered at the morgue in Agdam's morgue, and 29 bodies had been buried in the cemetery. Of the seven corpses I saw awaiting burial, two were children and three were women, one shot through the chest at point

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blank range. Agdam hospital was a scene of carnage and terror. Doctors said they had 140 patients who escaped slaughter, most with bullet injuries or deep stab wounds. Nor were they safe in Agdam. On Friday night rockets fell on the city which has a population of 150,000, destroying several buildings and killing one person.

The Times, 2 March 1992

CORPSES LITTER HILLS IN KARABAKH (ANATOL LIEVEN COMES UNDER FIRE WHILE FLYING TO INVESTIGATE THE MASS KILLINGS OF REFUGEES BY ARMENIAN TROOPS): As we swooped low over the snow-covered hills of Nagorno-Karabakh we saw the scattered corpses. Apparently, the refugees had been shot down as they ran. An Azerbaijani film of the places we flew over, shown to journalists afterwards, showed DOZENS OF CORPSES lying in various parts of the hills. The Azerbaijanis claim that AS MANY AS 1000 have died in a MASS KILLING of AZERBAIJANIS fleeing from the town of Khojaly, seized by Armenians last week. A further 4,000 are believed to be wounded, frozen to death or missing. The civilian helicopter's job was to land in the mountains and pick up bodies at sites of the mass killings. The civilian helicopter picked up four corpses, and it was during this and a previous mission that an Azerbaijani cameraman filmed the several dozen bodies on the hillsides. Back at the airfield in Agdam, we took a look at the bodies the civilian helicopter had picked up. Two old men a small girl were covered with blood, their limbs contorted by the cold and rigor mortis. They had been shot.

TIME, 16 March 1992 M A S S A C R E I N K H O J A L Y: By Jill SMOLOWE

Reported by Yuri ZARAKHOVICH/Moscow - While the details are argued, this much is plain: something grim and unconscionable happened in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly two weeks ago. So far, some 200 dead Azerbaijanis, many of them

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mutilated, have been transported out of the town tucked inside the Armenian-dominated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh for burial in neighboring Azerbaijan. The total number of deaths - the Azerbaijanis claim 1,324 civilians have been slaughtered, most of them women and children - is unknown. Videotapes circulated by the Azerbaijanis include images of defaced civilians, some of them scalped, others shot in the head.

BBC1 Morning News, 3 March 1992. BBC reporter was live on line and he claimed that he saw more than 100 bodies of Azeri men, women and children as well as a baby who are shot dead from their heads from a very short distance.

BBC1 Morning News, 3 March 1992. Very disturbing picture has shown that many civilian corpses who were picked up from mountain. Reporter said he, cameraman and Western Journalists have seen more than 100 corpses, who are men, women, children, massacred by Armenians. They have been shot dead from their heads as close as 1 meter. Picture also has shown nearly ten bodies (mainly women and children) are shot dead from their heads. Azerbaijan claimed that more than 1000 civilians massacred by Armenian forces.

Channel 4 News, 2 March 1992. 2 French journalists have seen 32 corpses of men, women and children in civilian clothes. Many of them shot dead from their heads as close as less than 1 meter. Report from Karabakhpress - A merciless massacre of the civilian population of the small Azeri town of Khojaly (Population 6000) in Karabakh, Azerbaijan, is reported to have taken place on the night of February 28 by the Soviet Armenian Army. Close to 1000 people are reported to have been massacred. Elderly and children were not spared. Many were badly beaten and shot at close range. A sense of rage and helplessness has overwhelmed the Azeri

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population in face of the well armed and equipped Armenian Army. The neighboring Azeri city of Agdam outside of the Karabakh region has come under heavy Armenian artillery shelling. City hospital was hit and two pregnant women as well as a new born infant were killed. Azerbaijan is appealing to the international community to condemn such barbaric and ruthless attacks on its population and its sovereignty.

Boston Sunday Globe, 21 November 1993

By Jon Auerbach Globe Correspondent - CHAKHARLI,
Azerbaijan -- The truckloads of scared and lost children, the sobbing mothers, the stench of sickness and the sea of blank faces in this mud-covered refugee camp obscure the deeper issue of why tens of thousands of Azeris have fled here. What we see now is a systematic destruction of every village in their way, said one senior US official. It's one of the most disgusting things we've seen. It's vandalism, the US official said. The idea that there is an aggressive intent in a sound conclusion. The United Nations estimates that there are more than 1 million refugees in Azerbaijan, roughly one seventh of the former Soviet republic's entire population. Thousands who fled to neighboring Iran are being slowly repatriated to refugee camps already bursting at the seams. But because of the Karabakh Armenians' policy of burning villages, relief organizations say there is no hope that the Azeris could return home anytime soon.

The Times, 3 March 1992

MASSACRE UNCOVERED: By ANATOL LIEVEN -
More than sixty bodies, including those of women and children, have been spotted on hillsides in Nagorno-Karabakh, confirming claims that Armenian troops massacred Azeri refugees. Hundreds are missing. Scattered amid the withered grass and bushes along a small valley and across the hillside beyond are the bodies of last Wednesday's massacre by Armenian forces of Azerbaijani refugees.

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In all, 31 bodies could be counted at the scene. At least another 31 have been taken into Agdam over the past five days. These figures do not include civilians reported killed when the Armenians stormed the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly on Tuesday night. The figures also do not include other as yet undiscovered bodies

Zahid Jabarov, a survivor of the massacre, said he saw up to 200 people shot down at the point we visited, and refugees who came by different routes have also told of being shot at repeatedly and of leaving a trail of bodies along their path. Around the bodies we saw were scattered possessions, clothing and personnel documents. The bodies themselves have been preserved by the bitter cold which killed others as they hid in the hills and forest after the massacre. All are the bodies of ordinary people, dressed in the poor, ugly clothing of workers.

Of the 31 we saw, only one policeman and two apparent national volunteers were wearing uniform. All the rest were civilians, including eight women and three small children. Two groups, apparently families, had fallen together, the children cradled in the women's arms. Several of them, including one small girl, had terrible head injuries: only her face was left. Survivors have told how they saw Armenians shooting them point blank as they lay on the ground.

The Age, Melbourne, 6 March 1992

By Helen WOMACK - Agdam, Azerbaijan, Thursday -

The exact number of victims is still unclear, but there can be little doubt that Azeri civilians were massacred by Armenian Army in the snowy mountains of Nagorno-Karabakh last week.

Refugees from the enclave town of Khojaly, sheltering in the Azeri border town of Agdam, give largely consistent accounts of how Armenians attacked their homes on the night of 25 February, chased those who fled and shot them in the surrounding forests. Yesterday, I saw 75 freshly dug graves in one cemetery in addition to four mutilated corpses we were shown in the mosque when we

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arrived in Agdam late on Tuesday. I also saw women and children with bullet wounds in a makeshift hospital in a string of railway carriages.

Khojaly, an Azeri settlement in the enclave mostly populated by Armenians, had a population of about 6000. Mr. Rashid Mammadov Commander of Police in Agdam, said only about 500 escaped to his town. So where are the rest? Some might have taken prisoner, he said, or fled. Many bodies were still lying in the mountains because the Azeris were short of helicopters to retrieve them. He believed more than 1000 had perished, some of cold in temperatures as low as minus 10 degrees.

When Azeris saw the Armenians with a convoy of armored personnel carriers, they realized they could not hope to defend themselves, and fled into the forests. In the small hours, the massacre started. Mr. Nasiru, who believes his wife and two children were taken prisoner, repeated what many other refugees have said - that troops of the former Soviet army helped the Armenians to attack Khojaly. It is not my opinion, I saw it with my own eyes.

The Washington Post, 28 February 1992

Nagorno-Karabakh Victims Buried in Azerbaijani Town: "Refugees claim hundreds died in Armenian Attack...Of seven bodies seen here today, two were children and three were women, one shot through the chest at what appeared to be close range. Another 120 refugees being treated at Agdam's hospital include many with multiple stab wounds."

The Washington Times, 2 March 1992

Armenian Raid Leaves Azeris Dead or Fleeing: "...about 1,000 of Khojaly's 10,000 people were massacred by the Armenian Army in Tuesday's attack. Azerbaijani television showed truckloads of corpses being evacuated from the Khojaly area."

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The Independent, 29 February 1992

By Helen Womack - "Elif Kaban, a Reuter correspondent in Agdam, reported that after a massacre on Wednesday, Azeris were burying scores of people who died when Armenians overran the town of Khojaly, the second-biggest Azeri settlement in the area. 'The world is turning its back on what's happening here. We are dying and you are just watching, one mourner shouted at a group of journalists.'"

The Washington Post, 3 March 1992

Killings Rife in Nagorno-Karabakh: "Journalists in the area reported seeing dozens of corpses, including one of the civilians, and Azerbaijani officials said Armenians began shooting at them when they sought to recover the bodies."

The Times (London), 3 March 1992

Bodies Mark Site of Karabakh Massacre: "A local truce was enforced to allow the Azerbaijanis to collect their dead and any refugees still hiding in the hills and forest. All are the bodies of ordinary people, dressed in the poor, ugly clothing of workers...All the rest were civilians, including eight women and three small children. Two groups, apparently families, had fallen together, the children cradled in the women's arms. Several of them, including one small girl, had terrible head injuries: only her face was left. Survivors have told how they saw Armenians shooting them point blank as they lay on the ground."

The SUNDAY TIMES, 8 March 1992

Thomas Goltz, the first to report the massacre by Armenian soldiers, reports from Agdam. Khojaly used to be a barren Azeri town, with empty shops and treeless dirt roads. Yet it was still home

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to thousands of Azeri people who, in happier times, tended fields and flocks of geese. Last week it was wiped off the map.

As sickening reports trickled in to the Azerbaijani border town of Agdam, and the bodies piled up in the morgues, there was little doubt that Khojaly and the stark foothills and gullies around it had been the site of the most terrible massacre since the Soviet Union broke apart.

I was the last Westerner to visit Khojaly. That was in January and people were predicting their fate with grim resignation. Zumrut Ezoya, a mother of four on board the helicopter that ferried us into the town, called her community "sitting ducks, ready to get shot". She and her family were among the victims of the massacre by the Armenians on February 26.

"The Armenians have taken all the outlying villages, one by one, and the government does nothing." Balakishi Sakikov, 55, a father of five, said. "Next they will drive us out or kill us all," said Dilbar, his wife. The couple, their three sons and three daughters were killed in the massacre, as were many other people I had spoken to.

"It was close to the Armenian lines we knew we would have to cross. There was a road, and the first units of the column ran across then all hell broke loose. Bullets were raining down from all sides. we had just entered their trap."

The Azeri defenders picked off one by one. Survivors say that Armenian forces then began a pitiless slaughter, firing at anything moved in the gullies. A video taken by an Azeri cameraman, wailing and crying as he filmed body after body, showed a grizzly trail of death leading towards higher, forested ground where the villagers had sought refuge from the Armenians.

"The Armenians just shot and shot and shot," said Omar Veyselov, lying in hospital in Agdam with shrapnel wounds. "I saw my wife and daughter fall right by me."

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People wandered through the hospital corridors looking for news of the loved ones. Some vented their fury on foreigners: "Where is my daughter, where is my son?" wailed a mother. "Raped. Butchered. Lost."

The Independent, London, 12 June 1992

Painful Search: The gruesome extent of February's killings of Azeris by Armenians in the town of Khojaly is at last emerging in Azerbaijan - about 600 men, women and children dead.

The State Prosecutor, Aydin Rasulov, the chief investigator of a 15-man team looking into what Azerbaijan calls the "Khojaly Massacre", said his figure of 600 people dead was a minimum on preliminary findings. A similar estimate was given by Elman Mammadov, the mayor of Khojaly. An even higher one was printed in the Baku newspaper Ordu in May - 479 dead people named and more than 200 bodies reported unidentified. This figure of nearly 700 dead is quoted as official by Leila Yunusova, the new spokeswoman of the Azeri Ministry of Defense.

FranCois Zen Ruffinen, head of delegation of the International Red Cross in Baku, said the Muslim imam of the nearby city of Agdam had reported a figure of 580 bodies received at his mosque from Khojaly, most of them civilians. "We did not count the bodies. But the figure seems reasonable. It is no fantasy," Mr. Zen Ruffinen said. "We have some idea since we gave the body bags and products to wash the dead."

Mr. Rasulov endeavors to give an unemotional estimate of the number of dead in the massacre. "Don't get worked up. It will take several months to get a final figure," the 43-year-old lawyer said at his small office.

Mr. Rasulov knows about these things. It took him two years to reach a firm conclusion that 131 people were killed and 714 wounded when Soviet troops and tanks crushed a nationalist uprising in Baku in January 1990.

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Officially, 184 people have so far been certified as dead, being the number of people that could be medically examined by the republic's forensic department. "This is just a small percentage of the dead," said Rafiq Yusifov, the republic's chief forensic scientist. "They were the only bodies brought to us. Remember the chaos and the fact that we are Muslims and have to wash and bury our dead within 24 hours."

Of these 184 people, 51 were women, and 13 were children under 14 years old. Gunshots killed 151 people, shrapnel killed 20 and axes or blunt instruments killed 10. Exposure in the highland snows killed the last three. Thirty-three people showed signs of deliberate mutilation, including ears, noses, breasts or penises cut off and eyes gouged out, according to Professor Yusifov's report. Those 184 bodies examined were less than a third of those believed to have been killed, Mr. Rasulov said.

"There were too many bodies of dead and wounded on the ground to count properly: 470-500 in Khojaly, 650-700 people by the stream and the road and 85-100 visible around Nakhichevanik village," Mr. Manafov wrote in a statement countersigned by the helicopter pilot.

"People waved up to us for help. We saw three dead children and one two-year-old alive by one dead woman. The live one was pulling at her arm for the mother to get up. We tried to land but Armenians started a barrage against our helicopter and we had to return."

There has been no consolidation of the lists and figures in circulation because of the political upheavals of the last few months and the fact that nobody knows exactly who was in Khojaly at the time - many inhabitants were displaced from other villages taken over by Armenian forces.

The Independent, London, 12 June 1992

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Photographs: Liu Heung / AP Frederique Lengaigne / Reuter - Aref Sadikov sat quietly in the shade of a cafe-bar on the Caspian Sea esplanade of Baku and showed a line of stitches in his trousers, torn by an Armenian bullet as he fled the town of Khojaly just over three months ago, writes Hugh Pope.

"I'm still wearing the same clothes, I don't have any others," the 51-year-old carpenter said, beginning his account of the Khojaly disaster. "I was wounded in five places, but I am lucky to be alive."

Mr. Sadikov and his wife were short of food, without electricity for more than a month, and cut off from helicopter flights for 12 days. They sensed the Armenian noose was tightening around the 2,000 to 3,000 people left in the stragglng Azeri town on the edge of Karabakh.

"At about 11pm a bombardment started such as we had never heard before, eight or nine kinds of weapons, artillery, heavy machine-guns, the lot," Mr. Sadikov said.

Soon neighbors were pouring down the street from the direction of the attack. Some huddled in shelters but others started fleeing the town, down a hill, through a stream and through the snow into a forest on the other side.

To escape, the townspeople had to reach the Azeri town of Agdam about 15 miles away. They thought they were going to make it, until at about dawn they reached a bottleneck between the two Azeri villages of Nakhichevanik and Sadarak.

"None of my group was hurt up to then ... Then we were spotted by a car on the road, and the Armenian outposts started opening fire," Mr. Sadikov said. Mr. Sadikov said only 10 people from his group of 80 made it through, including his wife and militiaman son. Seven of his immediate relations died, including his 67-year-old elder brother.

"I only had time to reach down and cover his face with his hat," he said, pulling his own big flat Turkish cap over his eyes. "We have never got any of the bodies back."

Khojaly genocide: million signatures – one demand

The first groups were lucky to have the benefit of covering fire. One hero of the evacuation, Alef Hajiev, was shot dead as he struggled to change a magazine while covering the third group's crossing, Mr. Sadikov said.

Another hero, Elman Mammadov, the mayor of Khojaly, said that he and several others had spent the whole day of 26 February in the bushy hillside, surrounded by dead bodies as they tried to keep three Armenian armoured personnel carriers at bay.

As the survivors staggered the last mile into Agdam, there was little comfort in a town from which most of the population was soon to flee.

"The night after we reached the town there was a big Armenian rocket attack. Some people just kept going," Mr. Sadikov said. "I had to get to the hospital for treatment. I was in a bad way. They even found a bullet in my sock."

Victims of massacre: An Azeri woman mourns her son, killed in the Khojaly massacre in February (left). Nurses struggled in primitive conditions (centre) to save a wounded man in a makeshift operating theatre set up in a train carriage. Grief-stricken relatives in the town of Agdam (right) weep over the coffin of another of the massacre victims. Calculating the final death toll has been complicated because Muslims bury their dead within 24 hours.

KHOJALY IS STILL SMOLDERING IN ASHES

Representatives of over 30 countries were handed a book at the IXth Eurasian summit which lasted three days in Istanbul. The book “Khojaly genocide” prepared by the President of the Association for Civil Society Development in Azerbaijan Elkhan Suleymanov informs readers on the black page in history of humanity in documents, memoirs and reports.

The genocide perpetrated by Armenian aggressors, backed by the Soviet Army is nearly forgotten nowadays. Those who support Armenians, moved from Anatolia 90 years ago during the World War I, for some reason prefer to keep silence concerning the Khojaly genocide.

* * *

The book by Suleymanov begins with the following: “In 1992, on the night of 25 to 26 February the Armenian armed military troops and the separatist terror troops with the direct participation of the ex-Soviet Regiment № 366 dislocated in Khankandy committed the most terrible and awful massacre against Azerbaijani people in Khojaly, located between Khankandy and Askeran. In this way the Khojaly genocide started”.

The survived civilians despairingly waited for their fates to be determined after many-hour fierce firing. Some of them were shot when tried to escape, others were driven out of their houses and then killed. Neither children nor old people were spared. Armenians intended to have Khojaly as a regional center, thus, they need no Azerbaijani there.

Their intention resulted in:

Khojaly genocide: million signatures – one demand

613 (including 60 children, 106 women, 70 old people) killed;

8 families totally liquidated;

25 children lost both parents;

130 children lost one parent;

487 people wounded, including 76 children;

1275 people taken prisoners;

150 people missing.

Thus, Khojaly became an Armenian town.

This is not the event which took place during the global World War and now is covered with the dust of history. As if It happened yesterday.

Khojaly is still smoldering in ashes.

Over a million people not only from Khojaly but also from Karabakh and other occupied Azerbaijani lands are struggling for existence in camps or in old, tumbledown train vans. They are starving, cold and in need of medicine.

And “the civilized” Europe together with Switzerland, Belgium and France still remains deaf and keeps silence concerning this genocide. Neither confused nor shamed it closes eyes to the committed by Armenians today and exaggerates the events taken place 90 years ago.

1/5 part of the Azerbaijani lands is still under Armenian occupation.

However, if one tomorrow day Azerbaijanis rise to free their occupied lands, no doubt, they will face Europe pretending as if seen, heard and was aware of nothing.

Here it is – false Europe...

Khikmet Bila

Journalist – publicist,

*the head of “Wide aspect” column
of Turkish “Djumkhuriyet” newspaper*

Khojaly genocide: million signatures – one demand
