

ASSOCIATION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT IN AZERBAIJAN

HISTORICAL FACTS VS. THE ARMENIAN MYTHS

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HISTORICAL FACTS
vs.
THE ARMENIAN MYTHS

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Development in Azerbaijan

Introduction

Dear reader,

The Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh started in the end of 80s of XX century by the armed assault of Armenia against Azerbaijan has resulted in death and injury of hundred of thousands of people, more than a million of people became refugees and IDPs, and finally, occupation of 20% of Azerbaijan's territory by Armenia. Although an agreement establishing cease-fire regime was signed in May 1994, this conflict has not been resolved on the basis of the main principles of the international law so far, the number of killed and injured as a result of regular violation of cease-fire regime in the contact lines of fighting parties increases.

Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is the most complicated conflict not only in the South Caucasus region but we would say in the post-Soviet area in general, creating serious problems for the proper integration of the region to the world community as well as establishment and development of the democratic values. However, Armenian ideologists continue to falsify the historical facts creating myths for justification of Armenia's territorial claims against Azerbaijan. They try to convince both the Armenian and world community in the veracity of these falsified "historical facts". This process is actually continued under the form of spreading of "Armenian mythology" all over the world by the Armenian mythologists.

Nevertheless, the humanity prefers to believe not in ungrounded myths but solid historical facts. This is why we based this book on the myths of Armenian ideologists about Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the historical facts disclosing these myths. For the sake of objectivity, only non-Azerbaijani, including Armenian sources were used for presentation of the historical facts.

We invite you to a short journey of Armenian myths and historical facts proving that they are nothing but myths. We believe that this book will help you to get an objective information on the genesis of Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and problems of its solution.

Since the day it was established ACSDA has carried out different local and international projects on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. In 2006, ASCDA started gathering materials on the tragedy in Khojaly, the

testimony of witnesses, facts, news in the world press, and then published them in “The Khojali Genocide (in documents, facts and foreign media)”.

In 2007, ASCDA conducted a wide scale campaign under the slogan “The Khojali Genocide: Million Signatures - One Demand”. As a result of this campaign, the Association was able to have signatures of one million Azerbaijani citizens who demand the recognition of the Khojali tragedy as a genocide. These signatures were published in form of a book and sent to the parliaments of different countries and to many well-known libraries.

The brochure presented to you is a part of one of our current projects.

The first myth: Is Karabakh the historical land of settlement of Armenians?

It is immoral to justify the occupation, murder of peaceful population, its expulsion from their lands and to make efforts for legalizing this. The Armenian ideologists are trying to convince the world community that the Karabakh is historically Armenian territory. Without any explanation we present some historical facts which prove that this is wrong.

The facts against this myth:

I. The Treaty of Turkmenchay (1828) that ended the war between the Russian Empire and Iran, and the Treaty of Edirne (1929) signed between Russia and Turkey gave a legal basis to the movement of the Armenian population living in Iran and Turkey to Azerbaijan. The reason of this movement was to create a stronghold of the Christian Armenians for Russia in Muslim Azerbaijan. The Russian writer and diplomat Alexander Griboyedov (1795-1829) who participated in the signing of the Treaty of Turkmenchay and shortly after was appointed the Russian Ambassador to Iran directly led this process¹, as a response to the appeal of the Karabakh local population on prevention of the Armenian movements, he gave promise that these movements were temporary, the Armenians would not stay here for a long time and would be moved to Russia². At the same time Griboyedov wrote to the Russian Emperor:

*“Your majesty, perhaps you gave the Armenians permission to move to the central lands of Russia. They are such a nation that after living a couple of years they will proclaim that these lands are of their ancestors”*³

II. Isaac Azimov, famous American writer and scientist writes: *“When the Urartu was destroyed by the Medians, a new ethnicity of the Armenians emerged in the region and began to move towards the Asia Minor. Initially they were the subjects of the Medians, then of the Persians, then of the Seleucids. When Antioch was destroyed by the Romans (190 AD), they made the first step on the road of independence.... In the centuries that followed, they rolled like a ball of Ping-Pong between the states of the east and west, they have never been their own lords, never been a part of a country completely, but a battle field for diplomats and armies all the time”*⁴

III. The Armenian historian B. Ishkhanyan wrote in his book *“The Peoples of*

the Caucasus”:⁵

“... The real motherland of the Armenians is in the Asia Minor, that is, beyond the borders of the territory of Russia, they were settled in the Caucasus, mainly within the borders of the gubernia of Erivan, in some provinces populated purely by the Armenians and in the next centuries in other places of the Caucasus,...”

IV. The Armenian historian, professor of Columbian University, George (Gevork) Burnutyan writes: *“Before the Russian occupation the Armenians never formed the majority in this region. Although “Kameralnoe opisanie”⁶ writes about the Armenian majority in some Armenian provinces, this change in the region took place when over 35,000 Muslims migrated from this region. Thus, during the Persian rule not a single fact gives evidence that the Armenians formed the majority in any province. Perhaps, on the local level it may be said only about the province of Kerbibasar, where the religious centre of the Armenians Uchkilsa (Echmiadzin) was located and the Armenians could form majority there. After the migration of thousands of Muslims from this region and arrival of 57,000 Armenians from Persia and the Ottoman Empire the number of the Christian population here grew and equaled to that of the Muslims. The Armenians could form the majority only after the Russian-Turkish wars of 1855-1856 and 1877-1878 as a result of their migration from the area of the Ottoman Empire and immigration of Muslim population. But even after these events, in the beginning of XX century Erivan ⁷ remained a town consisting mainly of Muslims”⁸.*

V. The Armenian historian, professor of Michigan University Ronald Suny writes: *“Since the Ancient times and in the Middle Ages Karabakh was a part of the kingdom of the Caucasian Albanians. This independent ethno-religious group, which already does not exist, was converted to Christianity in IV century and drew together with the Armenian Church. With the lapse of time the Albanian nobility became Armenianized. When in XI century the Seljuks intruded into the Transcaucasus, the process of Islamisation began, as a result, the population of the lowlands in Karabakh adopted Islam. This ethnicity was the direct ancestors of the present Azerbaijanis and spoke in Turkic, they adopted Islam of the Shiite sect widely spread in the neighboring Iran.*

The mountainous part remained mainly Christian, and with the lapse of time the Albanians of Karabakh merged with the Armenians. Ganzasar, the centre of the Albanian Church, became one of the episcopacies of the Armenian Church. And the echo of the national church, which once was independent, remained only in the status of the local archbishop called Catholicos”⁹.

VI. *“...From the fourth century b.c. to the eighth century a.d., the territory of*

the current Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan was one of the provinces of Caucasian Albania, the most ancient state of Northern Azerbaijan. Karabakh has never been a part of the Armenian state until the Armenians captured it by brute force in 1992. Armenians love to claim they are descended from Hayk, the great-great grandson of the Biblical patriarch Noah. Because Noah's arc is supposed to have come to rest on Mount Ararat, Armenians conclude that all of eastern Anatolia must have been the original Armenian ancient homeland. This wild claim is based on nothing other than fables, certainly not on any scientific or archaeological evidence. Historian Auguste Carriere summarily dismisses this claim.

The actual truth is there were a few Armenians even in the Caucasus region at all in 1800. Christian Armenians were brought into the Caucasus by the Russians starting in the early to mid-1800s and given free lands – lands the Russians had taken from Muslims after forcing them out of the region at gunpoint.

Russia began annexing the Caucasus in 1826. According to the Russian documents of this period, there were ninety thousand people living in Karabakh. There was one large town and 600 villages, only 150 of them were Armenian. By the end of the nineteenth century and after the forced removal of most Muslims, Armenians became a majority. The reason the Russians brought in more than 130,000 Armenians between the years 1828 and 1830 and gave them Muslim lands and homes was because they knew they would support the Russian Christian church as contrasted to the Muslims who would not do so.”¹⁰

The second myth: Have Armenians have been subjected to pressures on the part of other nations along the history?

The Armenians have tried to create the image of “a long-suffering nation” and gained certain successes in it. What do the historical documents say about it?

The facts disproving this myth:

I. “Before the Armenian revolutionaries, mainly the party of Dashnaksutyun made their appearance; the Transcaucasus lived in peace and security. Nobody here remembers the shadow of terrors which we saw very often and which were very often repeated in the form of the Armenian-Tatar slaughters (the Tatars were very often named as Azerbaijanis which is a mistake). The Dashnaks came and began

*to propagate the idea of creating an Armenian territory free from other ethnicities for the future Autonomous Armenia, and the feeling of national hostility and hatred penetrated into the life of the Transcaucasian village that was patriarchal up to that time.... It is not already a secret for the Armenian population that the Dashnaksutyun Party, distinguished in the Armenian-Tatar slaughter, very often took to provocations to prove their actions like tactic attacks of the bands of "patriots" to the neighboring Tatar (Azerbaijani) population, who, of course, did not remain in debt to the Armenians. This aspiration of Dashnaksutyun was explained usually by their desire to win considerably more territory only for the Armenian population with the purpose of laying the foundations for creating an autonomous Armenia in future"*¹¹

II. Adviser of the former USA President Ronald Reagan on legal issues Bruce Fein writes: as result of studies conducted by the white House it has become clear that the Armenians have annihilated two millions of the Ottoman Turks. Expressing the view to the confirmations of the Armenians about the "genocide", Bruce Fein stresses that during the presidency of Ronald Reagan in 1981 the White House studied the problem and it was proved that these claims of the Armenians are groundless. According to Fein, the Ottoman Empire paid a particular attention to national minorities and displayed care for them. *"The national minorities lived comfortably, enjoyed religions freedom. It is true that in the World War I the Armenian terrorist organisations together with the French and Russian militaries exterminated over two million citizens of the Ottoman Empire. The studies prove that the loss of the very Armenians in the said period was 500 000. Besides, the Armenians, particularly those who live in the United States, get enormous incomes on the account of the lies about the genocide"- says B. Fein. And the government of the United States does not act against the Armenians because of the great sum of money which is in circulation. According to the advisor, the Armenians are not eager to open their archives, because, they do not want to lose the incomes which they get as soon as the archives open, the truth will be disclosed,"* he thinks.¹²

III. *"... in the late eighties in the city of Tiflis, a few Armenian school teachers formed the group, which started publishing the journal "Gnchak"("Nabat").... The main programme of this party group was to gather under its banner all the Armenians in the territory of the three powers - Russia, Turkey and Iran, and by gathering to create a so-called "Great Armenia".... "*¹³ *Officially recognized date of the creation of Armenian organisation "Gnchak" can be considered in 1886, when Jeneve Avetis Nazarbekyan, Maro Vardanyan, Gabriel Kafyan and Ruben Kchanazatyan proclaimed the main points of the organisation programme,*

allowing researchers to classify it as the terrorist organisation. Thus, the paragraph 4 of the programme of “Gnchak notes:” In order to achieve its objectives, the revolutionary government must apply the following methods: propaganda, agitation, terrorism, the establishment of subversive organisations ... Agitation and terrorism should serve to make people stronger and more courageous “. Another point of the programme of the Armenian terrorist organisation “Gnchak” states: *“Kill the Turks and the Kurds in all conditions, never spare the Armenians who betrayed their purpose, avenge them.”*¹⁴

IV. 1890. Tiflis. Georgia Khristofor Mikaelyan, Simon Zavareyan and Stefan Zoryan found the organisation by name of “Dashnak sutyun” (Armenian Revolutionary Union). It continued the terrorist and fascistic traditions of their predecessors “Armenakan”, “Gnchak”. The Armenian author M. Vardanyan summarizes the main features of Dashnaksutyun in his book “The history of Dashnaksutyun” like this: *“The most important slogan of Dashnaksutyun is to shoot and kill the Turks, irrespective of any circumstance”*. In their first Congress held in 1892, the Dashnaks developed and approved the strategy of *“organisation and training of military formations of the Armenians, institution of revolutionary committees, use of terror against the government officials and clerks...”* *“According to the documents kept in the archives of Russia, the delegates of the Congress of 1892 adopted the principles”* of the armament and organisation of the Armenians, of the conduction of terror acts murder of government officials and destruction of institutions... The Congress for the first time in history spoke of the movement of fighters (fedains)”, that is, the Armenian kamikadzes. These fighters won particular popularity when they began annihilate the innocent people systematically for implementing into the life their “absured-pathological idea” about the creation of the Great Armenia- a country from the sea to the sea”.

Four years after the birth of Dashnakstym the American newspaper “The Boston Herald” (February 15, 1894) wrote: *“The great majority of the Armenians are not able to read and write, they are hardly ready for self-administration, if even Armenia were a separate country populated only by the Armenians”* Nevertheless, the ideologists of Dashnaksutyun continued their work on the development and materialisation of the scenario of the ethnically clean zones populated only by one ethnicity, that is, only by the Armenians.

V. March 1893. Ankara. Turkey. The Armenian band formations organized a mass slaughter of Muslims in the suburbs of Ankara. Its organizers were mainly the militants from the Armenian terrorist organisation “Gnchak”. According to the researches, the Armenian organisations have developed two principles: 1) to

organize riots; 2) *“to shout about these riots and bloodshed by increasing its scope consistently...Because they have assimilated the idea that politics is a lie from the beginning to the end, it is possible to save the nation by lies.”*¹⁵

VI. August 29, 1903. Elizavetapol (Ganja) of Azerbaijan. In the suburb of the town, near the Armenian church several thousands of Armenians assembled as the church-bell rang in conformity with the scenario of the terrorist organisation Gnchak. As a result of fires from rifles there were dead and wounded among the non-Armenian population. The Russian archives preserve documents that explain the provocation of the Armenian Church: *“... in divine service (the Gregorian Church is meant) in the first place there is only Catholicos, then there are the Gregorian Christians; and the rest-both the Christians and nations of other religions are” heretics and infidels,” and subject to damnation who not only attempt to oppress the Armenian church, but even those who connive at it. On the basis of such a teaching the ruling house of Russia was cursed by the Armenians in 1903...*¹⁶

VII. September 2, 1903. Baku. Azerbaijan. At 5 o'clock in the evening after the church bell a big crowd of armed Armenians gathered near the Armenian Church. To the order of the local authorities to leave the place they answered with shots from pistols. Only when 45 armed activists of various Armenian band formations were detained, it became possible to prevent the bloodshed. In the very church, behind the icons and under the altar a big quantity of arms were found. According to V.L.Velichko, a scholar in the Caucasian studies, *“... in all the mutinies described above a number of characteristic facts catch the sight. First, the Armenian crowd, which usually is considered peaceful and timid, and which in reality is a coward by nature, has many arms; it seems that they have stores of arms obtained in advance, which tells of an existing organisation making preparations for definite actions. Secondly, the mutinous Armenians came to the place of disorder by the call of the church bell with their arms in their hands. Both in Kars and Baku in such circumstances they occupied a kind of strategic position; it becomes evident that everything was well-thought out and prepared in advance. Thirdly, here the church calls not to prayer, but to slaughter. The Church and its altar full of weapons for the slaughter of people is not a prayer house, but the hearth of brutality, savagery, a den of mutiny against the lawful authorities of power, which functions in the interests of this very church.”*¹⁷

According to Lowry Heath, a scholar, *“...when the leaders of the Armenian church took part in memorial services of the deceased, or visited the terrorists in prisons and gave their consent to conduction of such services, in fact, they admitted that they had approved the conduction of such actions, which the*

Armenian terrorists had committed”¹⁸

VIII. December of 1904 - January of 1905, Baku, Azerbaijan. There appeared proclamations in Baku calling the Azerbaijanis to join the Armenian terrorist organisations for joint struggle against the Russians. In case of refusal there was such a threat in the proclamation: ***“Get ready, we shall stain your lands with your own blood and put the corpses into fire that will cover the whole world”***.

As the history of the next years evidence, these works were fully implemented into life by the Armenian international terrorist organisations. Senator Kuzminsky said: ***“It seems that such a provocative practice of the Armenians had gained a wide spread in the Muslim world...”*** The threatening proclamations of the Armenians with the replies of the Muslims in negation have been published in one of the issues of the magazine “Cakhre nume” in Persian in Alexandria.¹⁹

February 5, 1905. Baku Azerbaijan. Aga Rza Babayev, resident the village of Sabunchu of Baku uezd, was killed by an Armenian terrorist. It was committed in order to provoke disorder. On the same day the bandits murdered the pupils of the seventh grade of the technical school Jacob Lebedev and Ivan Volkov. According to the Armenian scholar J.Libardiyani, in the period of three years (1904-1906) the Armenians committed 105 “political murders”, 56 of them were against the Armenian, 32 - for political reasons and against the Russians, Turkish clerks and officers: 2-3 - by accident and without a special goal, the rest - against the bankers and usurers”. Analyzing the figures demonstrated by Libardiyani, the scholar writes:.. ***“within this short three-year period the Armenians killed by the Armenian terrorist was twice more than the number of the non-Armenians killed by the Armenians.***

This fact, which is hardly taken into account today, deserves attention, because, it is a phenomenon characteristic not only for 1904-1906, but which still continues to take place nowadays, too. The goal has remained the same: intentional attempt to frighten the majority of the peaceful Armenians, to force them to encourage the actions of terrorism”.²⁰

February 6, 1905. Baku. Azerbaijan. According to the documents of Mikhailovsky Hospital, terrorist groups protected by the Armenian millionaires Balabey Lalayan, Artem Babayants, Isay Ter-Osipov and other magnates 18 persons were killed, 33–wounded, including 34 Azerbaijanis, 6 Russians, 6 Armenians and 5 representatives other nations.²¹

February 5, 1905. Baku. Azerbaijan. About 100 peaceful residents were killed and wounded by the same Armenian terrorist organisation.²²

The events of February 6-10, 1905, entered the history as “a bloody slaughter in Baku”. The above-named Armenian magnates together with Mantashev, Ter–

Gukasov, Melikyants were the members and sponsors of the international Armenian terrorist organisation Dashnaksutyun which began to implement their programme goals.²³

The end of the August of 1905. Baku. Azerbaijan²⁴. The Armenian band-formations committed monstrous slaughter of the residents of the city – the ethnic Azerbaijanis. According to eye-witnesses, the events at the end of August in Baku exceeded the February tragedy of the same year due to brutality and mass nature of slaughters.

According to the materials from the Russian archives, the Armenian terrorist organisation Dashnaksutyun played a double game in 1905-1906, in fact: ***“first, on the one hand, at least a part of wrath against the Muslims has been vented, on the other hand, with the help of press and propaganda the Russian government was presented as the culprit of the committed crimes, thus, there appeared a new material for a mighty propagation for revolutionizing not only the Armenians, but other inhabitants of the Caucasus, too... As a result, many administrative and private persons of the Russian nationality objectionable to the Armenians were killed”.***²⁵

IX. In the March of 1918 the Armenians committed an unimaginable genocide in Azerbaijan. Hundreds of villages were destroyed in Shamakhi, Guba, Lankaran, Khachmaz, Hajigabul, Salyan. Civilians were killed. The number of the murdered only in Baku exceeded 12000. S. Shaumyan cynically admitted that “as a result of the civil war a mass of poor and homeless Muslims suffered”. He noted that “they were obliged to appeal for the help to the Armenian regiment. We could not allow us the luxury of refusing the service. It was necessary to use the service of the Armenian regiment, and the victory was so great that it can hardly overshadow the reality”.²⁶

The document taken from the national archive in Vienna says:

“In March 21 the Bolsheviks sent an ultimatum to Tatars demanding to give up all arms till 5 o'clock in the afternoon and recognize the Soviet Government. Armenians behaved neutrally. They sent their representative to Tatars, who clearly stated the unwillingness of Armenians to consider with the Bolsheviks. In spite of this in the evening of March 31 Armenians had joined the Bolsheviks and attacked Tatars. The attack started suddenly. Tatars had 5 machine-guns and no artillery at all: the Bolsheviks and Armenians had 12 ordnances, not counting naval artillery. Regular Tatar forces counted 400-500 men, whereas Armenians had a regiment since January, and the Bolsheviks had one and a half regiment at their disposal. Imperfect organisation and Turkish officers' commanding predetermined their

failure. There also were rumours that Tatars didn't want to make donations for the formation of military units. The slaughter started in March 31 and stopped in April 3. There were approximately 12000 dead. The houses have been partly burnt down and destroyed. The "Izmail" building, an architectural masterpiece, was completely destroyed. Those who did not manage to escape were killed by Armenians in their own houses. Armenians disembowelled female Muslims. There was no mercy even to children. Some estrangement between the Bolsheviks (Russians) and Armenians became consequence of all these infamous crimes.

I had a little chance to talk to the Tatar intelligentsia, as many of them escaped. Partially to Tiflis.

At present Baku is almost completely cut off from the outer world.”²⁷

The third myth: Did Azerbaijanis committed Khojali Genocide themselves?

On February 26, 1992 Armenian armed forces with the assistance of Russia's 366-th regiment, as it turned out later, mostly consisted of Armenian officers and warrant officers razed the Azerbaijani town Khojali. The victims of the barbaric actions were about a thousand people, mainly old people, women and children. This massacre became one of the most monstrous acts of the international terrorism against the civil population in the XX century. Hundreds of innocent people were massacred in one night. The tragic outcome of the Khojali crime: 613 dead, including 106 women and 23 children, 487 disabled persons, 1275 people lived through the horrors of Armenian captivity, 150 missing people. In the course of this barbaric operation, dozens of children, women and old people were shot at point blank range. Armenian terrorist organisations and hired armed units annihilated the whole families and organized "demonstrative" executions: skinned alive, cut off ears, and scalped. Common Fascism: disemboweled pregnant women... pulled out a child ... stuffed the cut heads of their husbands in the already dead women's bellies... and sewed their bellies - all this is indescribable. The international censure on Armenians for this tragedy led to the fact that the Armenians fabricated the myth that the slaughter was committed by Azerbaijanis themselves...

The facts against this myth:

I. When the Armenian military leader Serj Sarkisian²⁸ was asked to speak about the occupation of Khojaly, he replied discreetly: ***“We prefer not to speak about this aloud”***. Regarding the number of victims, he said, “much has been exaggerated”, and fleeing Azerbaijanis showed armed resistance. However, Sarkisian spoke more honest and more rigidly on the happened incidents: ***“But I think that the main issue was quite different. Before Khojaly the Azerbaijanis thought that they could joke with us, they thought that the Armenians were not capable to attack civil population. We managed to break that [stereotype].”***²⁹

II. One of the most active militant of Armenian terrorist organisations ASALA Vazgen Sislyan, whose name is associated with a number of bloody terrorist attacks around the world, did not hide from the press his involvement in the murder of Azeri children in Khojaly. It is significant that in the future V. Sislyan, on the initiative of President of the Republic of Armenia Robert Kocharian, will be recognized as a hero of Karabakh war³⁰

From the book of Armenian author Heyriyan Daud, a participant of the Khojaly tragedy: «... on March 2 Armenian group Gaflan» (engaged in the burning of corpses), has gathered more than 100 bodies of Turks (Azerbaijanis - Ed.) and burned them about a kilometer to the west of Khojaly ... I saw a girl of ten years old, wounded on the forehead and hands in the last car. This child with her blue face was still alive, despite hunger, cold and received wounds. She was breathing softly. I can not forget the eyes of this child, struggling with the death ... Soon the soldier, who was called Tigranyan, took the motionless girl and threw her on the dead bodies ... Then they were burned. It seemed to me that someone among the burning corpses was crying, begging for help ... After that I could not go on...³¹

III. ***“Armenians occupy a quarter of Azerbaijan’s territory, and they’ve displaced almost a million Azerbaijani civilians. Friends of Armenia’s powerful lobby in Washington, including the U.S. Government are suddenly a bit aghast. ‘What we see now is a systematic destruction of every village in their way’ says a senior state department official. It’s vandalism.”***³²

IV. Thomas Goltz, ARMENIAN SOLDIERS
MASSACRE HUNDREDS OF FLEEING FAMILIES
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...
...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.³³

V. 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-Karabagh 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 mass killing of Azerbaijanis fleeing from the town of Khodjaly, 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 and a small girl were covered with blood, their limbs contorted by the cold and rigor mortis. They had been shot. (The Times, 2 March 1992)

VI. Jil SMOLOWE Reported by Yuri ZARAKHOVICH/Moscow MASSACRE IN KHOJALY

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 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. (TIME, March 16, 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." ³⁴

VII. 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. 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 Khodjaly 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 Times, 3 March 1992)

VIII. Helen WOMACK

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 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 Mamedov 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 realised 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."³⁵

IX. 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.»³⁶

X. 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."³⁷

XI. Massacre Reports Horrify Azerbaijan

"Azeri officials who returned from the scene to this town about nine miles away brought back three dead children, the backs of their heads blown off...'Women and children had been scalped,' said Assad Faradzev, an aide to Karabagh's Azeri governor. Azeri television showed pictures of one truckload of bodies brought to the Azeri town of Agdam, some with their faces apparently scratched with knives or their eyes gouged out."³⁸

XII. Killings Rife in Nagorno-Karabagh

"Journalists in the area reported seeing dozens of corpses, including some of the civilians, and Azerbaijani officials said Armenians began shooting at them when they sought to recover the bodies."³⁹

XIII. Bodies Mark Site of Karabagh 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.⁴⁰

Appendix : UNO resolutions on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict the international law with the Armenian position in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan

From the beginning of the conflict up-to-date the international organisations try for peaceful solution of the conflict with the international rule of law. During these years Armenia does not keep the challenges of the international organisations acting disrespectfully to the international rule of law.

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 Nagorny-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 Kelbadjar 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 Kelbadjar 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,

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,

1. 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 Kelbadjar district and other recently occupied areas of Azerbaijan;

2. *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;*

3. *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;*

4. *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 Kelbadjar district of Azerbaijan, and to submit a further report to the Council;*

5. *Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.*

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 Minsk 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 of 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,

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

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

3. 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 Azerbaijani Republic;

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

5. 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;

6. 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;

7. 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;

8. 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;

9. Urges the Government of the Republic of Armenia to continue to exert its influence to achieve compliance by the Armenians of the Nagorny-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;

10. 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;

11. 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;

12. 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;

13. 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;

14. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

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 Nagorny 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 Nagorny 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,

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,

1. 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;

2. 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;

3. 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;

4. 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;

5. 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;

6.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;

7.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;

8.Supports the monitoring mission developed by the CSCE;

9.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;

10.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;

11.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;

12.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;

13.Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

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 Nagorny 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 Nagorny 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,

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,

1. 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;

2. Calls upon the Government of Armenia to use its influence to achieve compliance by the Armenians of the Nagorny 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;

3. 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;

4. 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;

5. 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 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;

6. 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;

7.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;

8.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;

9.Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

PACE RESOLUTION ON NAGORNO KARABAKH

Resolution 1416 (2005)⁴¹

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 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 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 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.

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/62/L.42)]

62/243. The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes, principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 822 (1993) of 30 April 1993, 853 (1993) of 29 July 1993, 874 (1993) of 14 October 1993 and 884 (1993) of 12 November 1993, as well as General Assembly resolutions 48/114 of 20 December 1993, entitled “Emergency international assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Azerbaijan”, and 60/285 of 7 September 2006, entitled “The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan”,

Recalling also the report of the fact-finding mission of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh and the letter on the fact-finding mission from the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group addressed to the Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,⁴²

Taking note of the report of the environmental assessment mission led by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to the fire-affected territories in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region,⁴³

Reaffirming the commitments of the parties to the conflict to abide scrupulously by the rules of international humanitarian law,

Seriously concerned that the armed conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan continues to endanger international peace and security, and mindful of its adverse implications for the humanitarian situation and development of the countries of the South Caucasus,

1. Reaffirms continued respect and support for the sovereignty and territorial in-

tegrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders;

2. Demands the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of all Armenian forces from all the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan;

3. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the population expelled from the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan to return to their homes, and stresses the necessity of creating appropriate conditions for this return, including the comprehensive rehabilitation of the conflict-affected territories;

4. Recognizes the necessity of providing normal, secure and equal conditions of life for Armenian and Azerbaijani communities in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which will allow an effective democratic system of self-governance to be built up in this region within the Republic of Azerbaijan;

5. Reaffirms that no State shall recognize as lawful the situation resulting from the occupation of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, nor render aid or assistance in maintaining this situation;

6. Expresses its support to the international mediation efforts, in particular those of the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, aimed at peaceful settlement of the conflict in accordance with the norms and principles of international law, and recognizes the necessity of intensifying these efforts with a view to achieving a lasting and durable peace in compliance with the provisions stipulated above;

7. Calls upon Member States and international and regional organizations and arrangements to effectively contribute, within their competence, to the process of settlement of the conflict;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan".

86th plenary meeting
14 March 2008

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