

DECREES

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The Decree of the Supreme Council of USSR
"On declaration of the state of emergency in Baku city"
(January 19, 1990)

In connection with the abrupt exacerbation of the situation in Baku city, attempts of the criminal extremist forces to overthrow the government bodies by force by means of organization of disorders, and with purpose to defend and secure the citizens, the Supreme Council of USSR, according to the clause 14 of the article 119 of the Constitution of USSR decrees:

To declare the State of Emergency in Baku city from January 20, 1990 and extend the effect of the Decree of the Presidium of Supreme Council of USSR of January 15, 1990 on this territory.

**The Chairman of the Supreme
Council of USSR M.Gorbachyev**
Moscow, Kreml.

January 19, 1990.

The Decree of the Supreme Council of the Azerbaijani SSR "about the cancellation of the state of emergency in Baku city" (January 22, 1990)

The Supreme Council of the Azerbaijani SSR noting that according to the article 71 of USSR Constitution the normalization of the situation in NKAO and the restoration of sovereign rights of the Azerbaijani SSR is the only aim of entering of Soviet Army troops into the republic, expressing the indignation and anger of the Azerbaijani people in connection with the bloody massacre implemented against the peaceful population of Baku city, the capital of republic, by troops of Defense Ministry of USSR, Interior Ministry of USSR and Committee of State Security of USSR, which led to the death and injuring of many hundreds people, noting, that the top authorities of USSR violated the conditions of Agreement on creation of USSR and Constitution of USSR and the decision about the declaration of the state of emergency in Baku city and entering of troops, that led to the violation of sovereign rights of Azerbaijan SSR, was taken without consent of sovereign Azerbaijani SSR, decrees:

To consider the Decree of Presidium of the Supreme Council of USSR of January 19, 1990 about the declaration of the state of emergency in Baku city as act of aggression against the sovereign Azerbaijani SSR, and to consider the actions of USSR top authorities and the top officials, who ordered to implement this Decree, and which led to the death and injuring of many hundreds people in Baku city and its suburbs as the crime against the Azerbaijani nation.

On the basis of the article 6 of the Constitutional Law of the Azerbaijani SSR about the sovereignty stop the implementation of the Decree of Presidium of the Supreme Council of USSR of January 19, 1990 about the declaration of the state of emergency everywhere except NKAO and regions bordering with Armenia because it violates the clause 14 of article 119 of USSR Constitution and it was adopted without consent of the top authorities of the Azerbaijani SSR.

To demand the immediate cancellation of the Decree of Presidium of the Supreme Council of USSR of January 19, 1990 about the declaration of the state of emergency in Baku city and regions of republic taking into account the exclusion, which is showed in the item 2 of the Decree, withdraw all troops and units from Baku city and other regions of the republic.

To create the deputy commission with participation of representatives of public organizations to identify the direct organizers who are guilty of the bloody massacre implemented in Baku city and other regions of Azerbaijan against the citizens of the Azerbaijani SSR.

To adopt the appeal to the Supreme Councils of the Soviet republics, governments of all democratic states of the world calling to condemn the actions of vandalism and aggression, that are contrary to the principles of international law, and led to the death and injuring of many hundreds people.

To continue the work of special session and start the discussion of the issue about the advisability of keeping of the allied relations between USSR and the Azerbaijani SSR in case of default of positive answer from the Union bodies.

The Chairwoman of Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Azerbaijani SSR

E.Gafarova

The Secretary of Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Azerbaijani SSR

R.Gaziyeva

Baku city,

January 22, 1990

**Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
about observing the fourth anniversary of the tragedy of January 20
(January 5, 1994)**

At the day of January 20, 1990, which went down in history of our nation as Bloody January, Azerbaijan sacrificed on the way to the liberty and independence. Since that day, that remained in the history as bloody, passed four years.

Unfortunately during these four years there was not done proper political and legal appraisal to the event, which took place on January 20, on the governmental level.

In connection with that the National Office of the Supreme Council of Azerbaijan Republic issued Decree. However, there were not shown the true reasons and initiators in the Decree of January 19, 1992.

I consider it as the holy duty of every citizen of Azerbaijan to honor the memory of our sons and daughters, innocent victims. In connection with the fourth anniversary of the tragedy of January 20 I decree:

1. To create the State Commission on the preparing and holding of measures in connection with fourth anniversary of tragedy of January 20. The Commission is to prepare during three days the proposals on the carrying out of measures and submit to the President of Republic of Azerbaijan to consideration.
2. To recommend the Milli Majlis of Republic of Azerbaijan to give the full political and legal appraisal to events, that took place on January 20. With this aim to consider the issue on the carrying out of special sessions of Milli Majlis.
3. To the Cabinet of Ministers to solve the questions connecting with this decree.

Heydar Aliyev
President of Republic of Azerbaijan

Baku city, January 5, 1994

**The Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
about the 10-th anniversary of the tragedy of January 20
(December 16, 1999)**

On January 20, 1990 the cruel crime was committed against the Azerbaijani people. In Baku and some regions of the Republic the Soviet military units were illegally entered with the purpose of punishment of the peaceful population who went on streets in a sign of protest against attempts of violation of a territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, unfair and prejudiced policy which was carried out under the guidance of the former USSR against the Azerbaijani people, unable activity of local authorities. As a result of retaliatory measures executed with unprecedented cruelty, hundreds of innocent citizens of Azerbaijan were wounded and killed. Thus, against the Azerbaijani people the act of a mass terror was performed.

On the eve of events of January 20, the policy carried out by the leadership of the Communist party of the Soviet Union contradicting with the interests of the people, biased and prejudiced line realized by a center against the sovereignty and a territorial integrity of Azerbaijan caused boundless anger of the population of the Republic. Collusion of that time's leadership of Azerbaijan with a center on Nagorno-Karabakh problem became the reason of the sharp protests in the Republic.

Since 1987 artificially created so-called Nagorno-Karabakh problem from the first days was perceived by the Azerbaijan people as an attempt directed against the territorial integrity of the Republic, violation of the Constitutional rights of the citizens. Though the inviolability of our boundaries repeatedly and officially was confirmed by the State structures at various levels, stage by stage center started to carry out the policy pursuing to secede the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast from Azerbaijan.

In March, 1988 the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Council of Ministers of the USSR, by accepting the special decision about acceleration of social-economic development of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, in fact laid the basis of separation of Nagorno-Karabakh from the subordination of the Azerbaijan SSR. With this decision, without having any objective basis and adopted as a result of the self-thought reasons, Nagorno-Karabakh was submitted exclusive rights and large money allocations. The solution of many issues of the area was entrusted directly to Central ministries and structures. In the decision of the Supreme Council of the Azerbaijani SSR dated June 17, 1988 it was said, that the measures realized by this decision of the center, "create favorable conditions for acceleration of development of productive forces, satisfying economic and moral needs of both Armenian and Azerbaijan population, as well as other nationalities of autonomous oblast".

The next step of the center aimed at separation of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast from subordination of Azerbaijan was the Decree issued on January 12, 1989 by the Supreme Council of the USSR about introduction in Autonomous area of the special form of control. The leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh was entrusted to the Special Control Committee chaired by the representative of the center A.Volski. It actually meant a separation of Nagorno-Karabakh from a composition of the Azerbaijani SSR.

The leadership of the USSR in official documents tried to create such image, that they had the same attitude both to Azerbaijan, and to Armenia, realizing measures on normalization of situation in the region. At that time the prejudiced attitude of the center to Azerbaijan, to Azerbaijanis was evident. Till 1988 Azerbaijanis were subjected to ideological aggression realized in the purposeful form in central mass media of the USSR and various mass-media of Armenia. The basic purpose of the given campaign was creation of a negative image of Azerbaijan. It was possible to consider it as a preparatory stage of mass operation of ethnic cleansing started in 1988 in the Armenian SSR, and also in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast. During banishing with unprecedented cruelty of Azerbaijanis living in Armenia from the native places many of our compatriots, including old men, children and women were killed.

While official State structures, law - enforcement forces and mass media of the USSR paid extremely large attention to Nagorno-Karabakh problem, big tragedy of the Azerbaijani people was accompanied by full silence. The indifferent position of the Azerbaijani leadership to this problem became the real crime against our compatriots.

As a result of such a position of the leadership of Azerbaijan, the Supreme Council of the Armenian SSR was daring to accept on December 1, 1989 the decision to join Nagorno-Karabakh to the Armenian SSR. And on January 15, 1990, several days before events of January 20 the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the USSR "About introduction of the state of emergency in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Area and some other regions" as a matter of fact put an end to the hopes of Azerbaijanis to return back to their homes in Nagorno-Karabakh. As it is obvious from the title of the Decree, the issue of belonging of the autonomous area and "some other regions" already became doubtful.

The realization by the center of a prejudiced policy against Azerbaijan, explicit demonstration by the leadership of the Republic of absolute indifference to destiny of the people created feelings of anger and protest of the broad national masses. All of them clearly realized that the leadership of Azerbaijan exhibited feebleness and indecision in suppression of encroachments on destiny of the republic and people, and occasionally even implemented secret treacherous plans against the people, striking a bargain with the center to preserve their own offices. In such a situation the people had to take on all responsibility and to express mass protest with the hope to prevent a realization of these treacherous plans.

Leadership of the USSR chooses the path of open punishment of the people, who dared to struggle for restoring of the justice in the Republic. Capture of Baku on January 20, 1990 without declaration of the state of emergency by a large contingent of the Soviet army, special assignment units and internal forces was accompanied by special cruelty and unprecedented atrocities.

Tragedy of January 20, made with the purpose to break a faith and will of the people dared to fight for their rights, to humiliate its national dignity and to demonstrate the force of the Soviet military machine, was military aggression and crime of the totalitarian communist regime against the Azerbaijani people.

While the crime and its results were vivid, the leadership of the Republic by all means tried to veil the essence of the tragedy. The fact that the majority of the political and State leaders of the Republic was not on the session of

the Supreme Council of the Azerbaijani SSR, convened upon demand of the people and initiative of the Parliament members, on January 22, 1990 in connection with the January tragedy once again confirmed their indifference to destiny of the people and their complicity to some extent in the committing of the crime. The leadership of the Republic even didn't consider it necessary to participate at the funeral ceremony of martyrs.

Popular Front of Azerbaijan which repeatedly demanded to give the political assessment to January 20 events, also did not use its opportunities during the years when it was in power. So, in spite of the fact that a lot of time has passed after the event, the terrible crime committed by the leadership of USSR and Azerbaijan against the people is still not revealed.

Yet in the period of the Soviet rule in Azerbaijan concrete facts and proves, collected by the vast masses of people in connection with the January 20 tragedy and passed to the State Investigation Commission, were intentionally removed and taken from Azerbaijan. At that period law-enforcement forces of Azerbaijan did not take appropriate measures for investigation, on the contrary some secret documents connected with January 20 tragedy as well as important archive documents were partly or absolutely eradicated.

Despite the fact that events taken place in other regions of the USSR including Tbilisi and Baltic countries were discussed on the level of Soviet leadership and Congress of peoples' deputies, the January 20 tragedy intentionally distorted and were destined to oblivion.

Only in 1994 serious steps were made to give the right assessment of January 20 events. The Decree of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic of January 20, 1994 recommended Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan to give full political and legal assessment to January 20 events.

By devoting to the given problem a special session, Milli Majlis of the Azerbaijan Republic at the meetings continued for several days revealed the true originators and reasons of January events. The decision of Milli Majlis dated March 29, 1994 gave a political and legal assessment to tragic events of January 20, 1990.

The tragedy of January 20, being a crime against the Azerbaijan people, in fact was a terrible act, one of the bloodiest acts of a terror realized by totalitarianism in the history of XX century directed against mankind, humanism, humanity. The people who have committed this crime, until now have not bore punishments. Our people are sure, that the guilty persons will bear responsibility before the history, mankind, and also before the Azerbaijan people.

In spite of the fact that the Azerbaijani people on January 20 were subjected to military, political, and moral aggression, nevertheless they demonstrated to the world faith to historical traditions of heroism, determination to endure ordeal in the name of freedom and independence of the native Land, even at the expense of their lives. The sons and daughters of our Motherland, who became martyrs in the name of freedom and independence of Azerbaijan during bloody January 1990 events, have added a vivid page in the heroic annals of our nation by their self-sacrifice. And today Azerbaijani people are proud of its daughters and sons, who are ready to sacrifice their lives in the name of preservation of its national dignity.

On the eve of the 10-th anniversary of tragedy of January 20, remembering our compatriots, heroically sacrificing their lives in the name of freedom of Azerbaijan, with deep grief I order;

1. Taking into account an exceptional meaning of bloody January tragedy in the history of Azerbaijan as the top of heroism and selflessness to hold in all cities, regions and villages of the Azerbaijan Republic large-scale special ceremonies devoted to the 10-th anniversary of the tragedy.
2. To the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Youth and Sports, State Committee on Problems of the Women of the Azerbaijan Republic to hold mass events, conferences and lectures devoted to the tragedy of January 20 so that to grow up the young generation in the spirit of ideas of patriotism, independence, devotion to national - moral values.
3. To Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan and Ministry of Education to ensure alongside with realization of fundamental scientific researches reflecting various stages of struggle of our people for freedom and independence over the history, objective presentation of the tragedy of January 20 from a scientific point of view, and to carry out special scientific sessions, conferences, and preparation of various articles devoted to this event.
4. To the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan Republic with the purpose to bring to a public of the various countries the authentic essence of the tragedy and in connection with its 10-th anniversary to prepare and to realize the program of measures describing bloody January as the act of aggression and terror, launched by Soviet totalitarian regime against the Azerbaijani people.
5. To the Ministry of Press and Information of the Azerbaijan Republic, State TV Committee, editorials of the newspapers and magazines to ensure issuing and featuring materials in the connection with the 10-th anniversary of the tragedy of January 20.
6. To Industrial Unit "Azerkinovideo" to develop a documentary chronicle devoted to events of January 20.
7. To Cabinet of Ministers to settle the problems resulting from the present Decree.

Heydar Aliyev
President of the Azerbaijan Republic

Baku, December 16, 1999