

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **ECHO OF KHOJALY**

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**Kommersant (Moscow)**  
**(February 27, 2002)**

Over the night from 25 to 26 February 1992 the Khojaly town (Nagorny Karabagh), inhabited mainly Azerbaijanis, was subjected to the massive attack from the Armenian side. The unit of the Russian 366th infantry guards regiment took part in the attack. As a result, 613 persons died, 487 wounded, 1275 imprisoned, 150 persons are missing. The Khojaly events have radically changed the nature of the conflict - afterwards the military operations.

**15<sup>th</sup> year of Khojaly genocide commemorated  
(February 26, 2007)**

Azerbaijan, Baku /corr Trend / The genocide at one of the most ancient settlements of Khojaly during the first stages of the conflict in the Nagorno Karabakh, which started between Armenia and Azerbaijan in 1988, is one of the most terrible, tragic and unprecedented events in human history. The tragedy of Khojaly stands at the same level of the most terrible and cruel tragedies carried out in Xatin, Hiroshima.

Khojaly is situated 14 km to north-west of Hankendi.

Khojaly had a population of 7000 before the tragedy in 1992. This was also a home to refugees who were forced to the area during that period from Armenia and IDPs from neighboring Hankendi, as well as to Meskheti Turks, who were forced from Fergana in 1989.

On the night of 26 February 1992, the Armenians deployed their forces in Hankendi and with the help of the 366th military regiment of the former USSR , attacked the defenseless and helpless of Khojali.

It started with Armenian forces surrounding the town from four directions and opening heavy and ceaseless fire from artillery and salvo launchers. Within a short time, the city was enveloped in flames. The defending army and local population had to leave town. Khojaly was occupied by the Armenian invaders by 5 AM.

Within one night the town was razed to the ground.

The population escaped to the mountains and forests. The Armenian armed forces fired at civilians from all sides and jeered at them cruelly. Many young girls were taken hostage that cold snowy night. Many of those who tried to escape the Armenian forces, by heading for forests and mountains, froze to death. As a result of the Armenian invasion, 613 residents of Khojaly were killed and 478 were badly injured. 1275 civilians, including the elderly, women and children, were taken hostage and endured serious insults and offences from the Armenians. The fate of 150 is still unknown. This was a true genocide. Out of 613 civilians killed in Khojaly, 106 were women, 63 children and 70 elderly.

During the Khojaly tragedy, 8 entire families were annihilated, 24 children lost both parents and 130 children lost one parent.

56 people were killed with particular cruelty. They were burnt to death, had their heads cut off, their faces skinned and their eyes pricked out. The Armenians were also violent to pregnant women and profaned the dead bodies.

The nation and the state of Azerbaijan will not forget the Khojaly tragedy.

Heydar Aliyev, the ex President of the Republic of Azerbaijan , issued a special decree regarding the Khojaly genocide on 1 March 1994. According to a decree of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan , 26 February was declared a national day of mourning in memory of the Khojaly genocide. Corresponding notifications were sent to all international organizations.

On 26 February 1997, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan issued a decree of a minute's silence in memory of the Khojaly genocide victims. The President of Azerbaijan makes a speech addressed to the nation of Azerbaijan in connection to the Khojaly genocide on 26 February every year

**www.news.az  
26 February, 2007**

**Azerbaijani delegation to highlight Nagorno-Karabakh issue at OSCE PA winter session  
(February 3, 2008)**

Nagorno-Karabakh issue will be a priority for the Azerbaijan delegation at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly winter session slated for February 20-22 in Vienna.

Eldar Ibrahimov, member of the Azerbaijan delegation to the OSCE PA said the Azerbaijani group will raise the issue concerning the solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem and OSCE PA`s adopting a resolution on the conflict. The delegation will also highlight the Khojaly tragedy as well. The team will try to include into the OSCE`s resolution the fact that Armenia is the occupant and Nagorno-Karabakh is controlled by the separatist forces.

Eldar Ibrahimov noted the resolution is unlikely to be adopted given the session is short. In this case, the team will try to solve this issue at the next session in Kazakhstan.

OSCE PA President Goran Lennmarker is to report on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. The delegation will highlight the refugee and IDP-related problem at the meetings of committees.

**AzerTAj  
03 February, 2008**

**On this night they had no right even to live  
(February 14, 2008)**

They fled from their home on that most ominous night leaving behind all the gaining, taking only the children. On this night, they had no right even to live.

Still in the evening on 25 February, the military equipment of the former 366th soviet regiment held fighting position surrounding Khojaly on three sides. Then, they began storming the city following with 2-hours massed bombardment and heavy military machines. To 5 o'clock in the morning of the next day, the city practically has stopped the existence: fire devoured the abandoned houses and the population, more than 2500 people left the houses, trying to be rescued in Askaran direction, but near the Nakhchivanik village the Armenian militants opened fire on unarmed people. Later, the Armenian side will, surprisingly shrugging shoulders, and putting good face on things, declare, that the peaceful population was presented "free corridor". This "corridor" determined by nobody in the given quality as it is necessary in such cases, appeared an ominous trap for the women, children and the old in the frost-bitten woods and mountain passes. The people, unfortunate, driven to despair with special cruelty, brutality, even savour, were slaughtered by the Armenian bands.

From materials of investigation on occupation of Khojaly, it is known, that in the attack on city, except the Armenian separatists and bands, participated also the 2nd battalion of the notorious 366th regiment under command of major Seyran Ohanyan, the 3rd battalion under command of Evgeny Nabokhin, the chief of staff of 1-st battalion Valery Chitchyan and over 50 Armenian officers and ensigns.

From the same materials it is known, that during attack to Khojaly, used were the forbidden bullets of 5, 45 calibres and chemical weapon. At the survived people, they scoffed with special cruelty: scalped them, cut off heads and other parts of body, pricked out eyes of children, ripped up stomachs of pregnant women, burnt alive, and having poured over gasoline. Are not these facts of violation by Armenia of protocols of the Geneva Convention, and isn't it a genocide of the peaceful population?

The bloodiest tragedy of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict began practically from illegal requirements of ethnic Armenians of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous region of Azerbaijan SSR in 1988 about annexation to Armenia SSR, provoked by open support of ruling circles of Armenia SSR with tacit consent of the central authorities of Soviet Union.

It has to be noted that the destiny of Khojaly has been predetermined. The city, population of which totaled about 7 thousand people, situated in 10 kms southeast of Khankendi. It was on the road of Agdam-Khankendi and had the only airport in Karabakh where military planes could land. In addition, ofcourse, one of priorities of the Armenian bands was liquidation of Khojaly, being bridgehead, opening of the corridor connecting Askaran and Stepanakert, and capture of the only airport which was under the control of Azerbaijanis.

Involuntarily the question arises – didn't A. Mutallibov, the then head of republic, know about it?

If he didn't know, it means, he had no right to hold such high post.

The president and the Commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan is the highest official of republic and he has not provided protection of constitutional order, territorial integrity of republic, the rights and freedoms of citizens. Moreover, even after tragedy he was afraid to inform people the truth and hid the data on real scales of punishment, having made one more curtsey aside Armenians.

Trying to diminish his role in inability to protect city, A. Mutallibov put the blame for massacre in Khojaly on leaders of the Popular Front. His justificatory interview was widely advertised in Armenia. Thus, he once again betraided his people, having thrown to the enemy in quality of gift his version, and, more likely, a dull conclusion testifying to his own feebleness and incompetence. In addition, the then opposition simply took advantage of tragedy that on the wave of national anger to come to power.

There was one more reason why the Armenian barbarians with brutal cruelty have massacred the innocent population.

Serzh Sarkisyan sitting nowadays in the armchair of the prime minister of Armenia and pretending to the post of the president of Armenia has rather cynically and rigidly expressed it: "Up to Khojaly, the Azerbaijanis thought, that it is possible to play with us, they thought, that Armenians are not capable to lift a hand on civilians. We could break this stereotype". Therefore, it seems massacre was planned as a deliberate act of intimidation.

However, they have not reached their goals, and will never.

The Russian journalist Y. Romanov, who has visited places of massacre, began his book about Karabakh "I shoot war ..." with such words: "Oh, my God, is it a "national-liberation struggle" as such?" We present only one episode from this book, and you will make conclusions: "... the 37 seconds I have shot burn my hands. I go

out of circle of people and raise the camera. In the viewfinder is a road on which the machine with wounded rushes. There, the wounded are unloaded on a stretcher, and they are directly from the platform through open windows of cars taken to the operational car. A girl of years of six with the tied up head.

The bandage is made so, that completely closes her both eyes.

Not switching off the camera, I bend over her:

- What is with you, lovely?

- My eyes burn ... Eyes my ...are burning...

My eyes burn!!!

The doctor touches me on shoulder:

- Blind she is. Cigarette stubs burned her eyes ... When she was brought here, the stubs stuck out of her eyes ...

Let the reader forgive me. However, what my eyes saw and was heard by my ears, cannot be transmitted in poor words. Such memoirs never pass, and, having written this chapter in the evening, in the morning I find out on temples a new gray hair ... ».

Gradually the news about bloody massacre in Khojaly became property of the public simply stunned by atrocities of the "victim of this conflict", how the Armenians and their henchmen represented themselves. The truth about genocide committed in Khojaly above the Azerbaijan population, became a subject of discussions by parliaments of the various countries.

Representative of the state of Indiana in the Congress of the USA, member of the Committee for international relations, Congressman Den Barton, speaking on February 21, 2005 in the House of Representatives, called the Congress to recognize the Khojaly tragedy as genocide. Having started his speech with the words "the mankind should know and remember", he stated that in Khojaly, committed was cruel ethnic cleanse in relation to innocent women, children and old men, and the Armenians mocked even at corpses. "We became witnesses of the fact that Armenians have intentionally destroyed each village seized by them in territory of Azerbaijan. It is nothing but barbarism", the Congressman concluded.

The US pro-Armenian Russian-language newspaper "V Novom Svete" published the article "Armenian Genocide – fact" of 19-25 October 2007 by Armenian lobbyist Edward Pariyants. In support of this "fact", he provided a photo depicting dead bodies of children, allegedly, Armenians killed by Turks in 1915. However, it is the photograph of Azerbaijani children killed by Armenian criminals during assault on Khojaly. "How much insolent, shameless and cynical one should be to present Azerbaijani children - victims of Armenian terror of 1922 - as Armenian victims of 1915,"- Felix Tsertsvadze said with indignation in his letter, urging to repel the falsifiers. Provoker was not only repulsed but also the newspaper apologized for the blunder. Khojaly massacre became possible because the Soviet center hampered the creation of Azerbaijan armed forces. They even took hunting rifles from Karabakh Azerbaijanis claiming Soviet troops stationed in the region will defend the population and territorial integrity of the Republic. The Azerbaijani population of Karabakh was left to the mercy of fate.

Khojaly genocide, which took place in late 20th century, is the gravest crime targeting not only the people of Azerbaijan but also the whole humanity. The world must remember it! In addition, it is not the Azerbaijani propaganda – it is a reality.

World Azerbaijanis mark the anniversary of this horrible tragedy with heavy heart on February 26. One of the priorities Heydar Aliyev Foundation headed by First Lady of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva is to raise the world community`s awareness about the truth on the Khojaly: the web portal on Azerbaijan was launched, collection of booklets "Karabakh realities" was prepared. In continuation of the special project implemented last year, a string of events dedicated to the Khojaly tragedy will be organized in the UK, Netherlands, Poland, Ukraine, USA (Washington, New York), UAE (Dubai).

Those countries will also host exhibitions of photo documents in Russian and English unmasking Armenian fascists in the extermination of people, which runs counter to common sense. The exhibition will also feature the works by winners of the Foundation`s picture contest "Khojaly through the eyes of children" In this context, heads of Muslim, Christian, and Judaic religions in Azerbaijan annually urge the international community to condemn the 26 February 1992 misdeeds, demand to bring the immediate perpetrators to trial for the crime committed.

A 13-minute film "Prayer" written by Yusif Sheikhov and directed by Ziya Shikhlinski will be demonstrated on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy. It was made by the government order and translated into a number of foreign languages. It will be shown in many countries with the support of the State Committee for Working with Azerbaijanis Living Abroad, in embassies and on all Azerbaijani channels.

Administrative Department of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
P R E S I D E N T I A L   L I B R A R Y

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The world should know and remember about Khojaly. There cannot be a crime without punishment. Those who are anyhow involved in this terrible crime are responsible to their conscience but the day will come – it will necessarily come, we believe in it – when they will be charged with their misdeeds in the court of history, before the humanity.

**AzerTAj**  
**14 February, 2008**

**The horror of the night. I witnessed the genocide  
(February 14-19, 2008)**

*From the diary of Khojaly inhabitant, Shaig Gurbanov*

It was towards evening of February 25. Those hard days had made people really closer to one another. All were frightful. Inhabitants were calling for help opening their hands to the sky in horror saying "God, help us". There came a sudden heard of shootings. Shooting sounds started first to increase from airport side later from Mehdikend. I counted the shooting directions: They were shooting from exactly nine directions. I ran home. My son Ruslan was awoken. He said: "Dad, I am scared" running to me. Our neighbor Firengiz came to us in horror. "What are you standing for? Take the children and let us go to the basement. Don't you see how the damned are shooting?" We got really scared, Zehra, Imran, aunt Firangiz, uncle Latif, Zakir, Nasiba, my wife Besti, Ruslan and Zaur went down to the basement. Nearly 500 people assembled in the basement in about half an hour. Most of them were women and children, and the men were standing next to the door waiting for help. We had no weapons to defend ourselves.

The shooting bullets were like a rain. All around were in panic, people were running around without knowing what to do. The scream voices coming from older Khojaly side was approaching. I saw about 2000 people came out from among the houses. When I asked where they were going. They answered that the Armenians had entered the village. They wanted to go towards mountains to Aghdam through the forest. I hailed the people in the basement. We also joined the survivors.

We somehow could get out of the village. We reached the river soon. The weather was very cold. We did not have any other choice; we did have to cross the river. I took off my shoes and crossed the river. However, most of the people just jumped into the water, because there was no time. Then we started to climb the opposite mountain. All were asking one another: "Who knows the way?" However, no one knew the way. When we reached down to the road, we waited everyone to come. After all assembled we started the way. Nakhchivanik road was being seen. We started to go ahead in that direction. Suddenly we saw armored carrier appear on the road. The armored carrier started to shoot at people standing between two hills. We could not find place to hide, everywhere was shrubbery. We could somehow escape and crossed to other side. After a little while, a police car stopped in front of us. They were Armenians. As they got off the car started to shoot at us. People were thrown about and running. At this time, another armored carrier stopped in front us and started to shoot at us again. I could hardly take the children and jumped into the valley. I saw grandma Gullu and Shohret lying right next to me. I tried to talk to them but they did not say anything. When I looked at them attentively, I saw blood all around them. They were dead. Nasibe and Zohre also wanted to run to the valley I was hiding in, but suddenly an armored carrier appeared in front of them, turned its tube towards them and shot. They both died in blood. I fainted when I saw that view.

It was heavily snowing. We again heard shooting sounds. We saw three people on the opposite hill. They were shooting and speaking our language. I took the child's hat and waved to them.

- Hey, Brother, do not be afraid. It's us, get out of there.

We happily got out of that valley. When we looked at the valley, we saw hundreds of people lying on the ground. We thought they were hiding, but when we approached them, saw that they were all dead. It was, impossible to move among the corpses.

The next day we went to carry the dead bodies. The hills looked bright red. The dead bodies were countless. There were a lot tortured ones among them. One of the corpses did not have a head on the body; the other had steel rope over his neck; and some others did not have legs, arms, eyes and other parts of body. Each of them had been killed with different tortures.

I am one of the live witnesses of genocide happened to Khojaly population. I will not be able to forget this horror until the end of my life.

**“Euro xəbər”.-2008.-№3.-14-19 fevral.-S.5**

**Turkey`s NGOs appeal to GNAT to recognize khojaly tragedy as genocide  
(February 13, 2008)**

About 300 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) of Turkey`s Kars, Igdır and Ardahan provinces, as well as municipalities and representatives of governors appealed to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) on February 13 to recognize the Khojaly tragedy as genocide. The appeal was presented to the leadership of the Turkish parliament and leaders of the political parties represented in the country`s parliament. The offer to appeal to the parliament was made on February 9 by the heads of NGOs, municipality chiefs. The appeal informs on bloodshed, as well as massacre committed by Armenians in Khojali on February 25-26 in 1992.

According to the appeal, Armenians killed 613 innocent people, captured 1275 with more than 1000 wounded, and 150 missing. Armenia`s military aggression resulted in occupation of twenty percent of Azerbaijani territories and driving of more than one million people from their homes. The UN Security Council has adopted 4 resolutions on unconditional withdrawal of Armenian military forces from occupied Azerbaijani territories.

Signatories of the appeal called on the GNAT to recognize the bloody massacre in Khojaly as the act of genocide and urged the world`s parliaments to push for withdrawal of Armenian forces from Azerbaijan.

**AzerTAj  
14 February, 2008**

**Azerbaijani ambassador meets chairman of Indonesian Parliament's House of Representatives  
(February 15, 2008)**

Ibrahim Hacıyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Indonesia met with Chairman of the House of Representatives of Indonesia Agung Laksono.

The Ambassador was interested in the Invitation Letter sent by the Chairman of Azerbaijan Parliament Ogtay Asadov to invite him to Baku and Agung Laksono said he would soon inform Azerbaijani side on the matter.

Ibrahim Hacıyev presented Ogtay Asadov's letter to Agung Laksono inviting him to ceremonies to be held on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of Azerbaijan Parliament.

He noted that Indonesian delegation's attending the ceremonies in Baku would serve expansion of relations between the two countries.

The Chairman of the House was also presented another letter inviting him to the conference called "Democracy and for the sake of stability: new opportunities of cooperation" to be held in Baku on the occasion of Azerbaijan's nationwide leader Heydar Aliyev's 80 anniversary, to be organized by the New Azerbaijan Party (YAP).

Ibrahim Hacıyev was also interested in the issue of the establishment of Indonesia-Azerbaijan Friendship Group in the Parliament of the country.

A. Laksono, in his turn, said this issue is on the agenda and the establishment of the Group is planned after parliamentary elections in Indonesia due to 2009.

The Azerbaijani Ambassador briefed him on Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, the Khojaly genocide in detail and highly assessed Indonesia is supporting Azerbaijan's fair position in settlement of this problem.

**AzerTAj  
15 February, 2008**

**Anniversary of Khojaly genocide marked at Indonesian Institute of Sciences  
(February 18, 2008)**

A ceremony devoted to the 16th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide was held on February 18 at the Indonesian Institute of Sciences.

The Institute is a governmental organization under the president of Indonesia.

Ibrahim Hajiyeu, Azerbaijani Ambassador to Indonesia informed the ceremony attendees on Armenia is occupying 20 percent of Azerbaijani territories and driving more than one million people out of their native lands. He particularly underlined efforts of Azerbaijan leadership to resolve the conflict peacefully and Armenia's destructive position in this question.

The Ambassador briefed on Khojaly genocide committed by Armenians, saying that it was one of the gravest crimes committed against humanity.

He also noted that memory of the innocent people - victims of savagery of the Armenian nationalists - has been commemorated annually in Azerbaijan and other countries.

Ibrahim Hajiyeu also informed the attendees on Azerbaijan's successes in the direction of integration towards world community, achievements gained under President Ilham Aliyev's leadership, democratic processes, and economic development in Azerbaijan, as well as Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil and Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipelines, the country's leading role in the West-East and North-South transport corridors and its growing influence in the region and the world wholly.

He answered the questions of reporters about Azerbaijan.

The attendees of the ceremony were distributed the book titled "Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict", published in Azerbaijani and Indonesian languages, as well as documentary film dealing with the conflict that has been released on DVD and other materials about Azerbaijan.

**AzerTAj  
18 February, 2008**

**Round table on Khojaly genocide held in Knesset  
(February 20, 2008)**

On February 18, Congress of Israel Azerbaijanis and Azerbaijan Representation of World Azerbaijanis' Congress (WAC) held a round table in the Knesset (the Israeli Parliament) to commemorate the 16th anniversary of Khojaly genocide.

Members of the Knesset, including David Tal, Israel Katz, Ran Kohen, Zeev Elkin and Marina Solodkina were among those in attendance at the event.

President of the Congress of Israel Azerbaijanis Shapiro-Suliman gave detailed information about Armenians' barbarism against innocent Azerbaijanis.

He described the Khojaly massacre as one of the most horrible tragedies of Azerbaijan in the 20th century.

Head of WAC Azerbaijan Representation Ismayil Aghayev said, in 1918, not only Azerbaijanis but also Armenians in Guba, a city in northeastern Azerbaijan, subjected Jews to mass killings. He added that 118 murdered Jews have been identified.

Aghayev called on the Israeli deputies to discuss the Khojaly issue and to make efforts towards recognizing it as an act of genocide.

The Members of the Knesset said the Khojaly genocide is not aimed only against Azerbaijanis, but also the whole humanity.

They stressed that the international community, and that international organizations must condemn Armenia's military aggression and world parliaments, including Knesset must give legal assessment to the Armenians' barbarism against Azerbaijanis and recognize it as genocide.

Organizers of the event distributed video and photo materials reflecting mass cemetery in Guba, where local residents, killed by Armenian fascists, had been buried; as well as booklets "Karabakh realities" published by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and other materials about activities of Armenian terrorist organizations.

**AzerTAj  
20 February, 2008**

**Their only «fault» was being Azerbaijanis  
(February 20, 2008)**

Sixteen years have elapsed ever since, but thinking of what happened at night on February 26, 1992, in one of the most beautiful corners of our country, Nagorno-Karabakh, still makes one's flesh creep. On that horrific night recorded in black letters in history of the Azerbaijani people, the city of Khojaly was erased from the face of the earth with its peaceful residents brutally killed and tortured.

Armenian armed groups supported by military personnel - including up to 40 officers, committed this bloody, uncivilized action and ensigns of Armenian origin - and equipment of the former soviet army has motorized rifle regiment No366, then deployed in the city of Khankendi.

While thinking of what happened then, it is too hard to believe that those, who call themselves human beings, committed it. Only monsters were capable to carry out such massive massacre killing 613 innocent people, including 106 women and 63 children and leaving 487 disabled. Besides, 1275 people, including the old, children and women, were taken hostage, and underwent severe torture and humiliation.

This is rough statistics given in the Statement the Milli Majlis of the Azerbaijan Republic issued last year on the 15th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide, one of the most monstrous crimes in the 20th century.

Human history recorded a number of genocide acts such as in Khatyn, Lidice and Oradour. But Khojaly is different: Armenian butchers even surpassed the fascists by aiming their arms against those they had been living side by side with for decades, in the same state.

Hundreds of true stories told by miraculously survived eyewitnesses, journalists and human rights activists to describe the Armenian barbarism have appeared in a number of publications, including in those ordered by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

The stories give a horrific picture of tortured death of people, whose only fault was they were Azerbaijanis.

Infantry fighting vehicles trampled residents of the city... They fired pointblank at the old, women and children, scalped and pulled out nails from captives, and put out eyes of the dead and cut their ears off... Here are illustrations that are more concrete.

Sanubar Alakbarova (resident of Khojaly): - When fleeing through the forest to Aghdam, we were ambushed. I saw many dead bodies piled up. My mother was shot dead. My daughters Sevinj and Hijran were wounded. A bullet hit me too. Young women and children were perishing on the snow...

Janan Orujov (resident of Khojaly): - They shot my son to death. He was 16. They took away my 23-year-old daughter with her twin babies, and my second 18-year-old daughter, who was pregnant...

Saria Talybova (resident of Khojaly): - ...We were brought to Armenian cemetery. Four young Meskheti Turks, who had found asylum in our city, and three Azerbaijanis were sacrificed on the grave of an Armenian gunman. They cut the poor men's heads off, and then began to torture and kill children before their parents' very eyes. They used bulldozer to throw the dead bodies down the ravine. Armed with screwdrivers, they pricked out the eyes of two Azerbaijanis wearing national army uniform.

French journalist, Jean-Yves Junet:

- I had heard a lot about wars, about the cruelty of the Fascists, but the Armenians were worse, killing five- and six-year-old children, killing innocent civilians.

V. Belykh, reporter of Russian newspaper «Izvestiya»: «...From time to time, dead bodies exchanged to living hostages are brought to Agdam. It is worse than any nightmare: pricked eyes, cut ears and heads, scalps... There were bunches of dead bodies, which, evidently, had long been dragged along the ground by a fighting vehicle. Torture knows no limits...

Sunday Times: Armenian soldiers annihilated hundreds families.

Washington Post: «...The corpses of seven dead men were shown today, two of them children and three-women. 120 refugees are in Agdam hospital, many bodies are stabbed».

Le Monde: «Foreign journalists in Agdam saw three scalped corpses with pulled out nails among women and children killed in Khojaly. This is not Azerbaijan propaganda but reality».

«Times»: ... «Many people were mutilated, and it was remained only the head of one little girl».

Outrage upon both the living and the dead was also confirmed by the Russian human rights center «Memorial», which registered the fact of scalping alive, and made examinations to find out the causes of Khojaly residents' massive death.

Reading all this is enough to make one horrified...

«Crime in Khojaly can not be justified in public opinion», said Journalist of British TV R. Patrick, who visited the place of tragedy.

But look what is the attitude to the tragedy taken by notorious Armenian «ideologist» Zoriy Balaian, a doctor, who broke Hippocrat's oath, a journalist, who broke all rules of journalism ethics, inspirer and organizer of the acts of insanity which caused hundreds of ruined fates from both sides. Here is how he assesses the genocide of Azerbaijanis in Khojaly in his book Revival of Our Spirit published in 1996: «Every Armenian must be proud of this action». What a scary words!

Even more shocking are revelations of the author, who lost his conscience and humanity, cited by our Russia-based compatriot Jafar Sadig in his collection Beyond the Statute of limitation: «When Khachatur and I entered one of the seized houses». Balaian writes, «Our soldiers nailed a 13-year-old Turk [Azerbaijani] to the window-frame. Then, Khachatur divided the boy's dead body into parts and threw them at dogs. In the evening, we did the same to another three kids. I did my duty as a man, who loves Armenians...».

It is possible to presume that he who committed and wrote with relish about that qualifying his action as doing a patriotic duty, is mentally sick. As for Balaian, he hardly needs specialized treatment. Wanted by the Interpol, he will probably be brought to court for stirring up inter-ethnic hostility, murders and other crimes against humanity.

These deliberate actions with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group prove, in accordance with international law, that what happened in the Azerbaijani city of Khojaly was an act of genocide, and along with tragedies mentioned above, must be recognized as genuine genocide.

Not only peaceful people of the planet, civilized nations and international organizations must be aware of this bitter truth but also the crime committed against humanity must be given legal assessment. It should be noted that the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan saw all signs of genocide enshrined in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 9, 1948.

The Khojaly tragedy was a continuation of the policy of ethnic cleansing and genocide carried out by Armenian nationalists and their supporters against the Azerbaijani people for almost 200 years. The impotent and incompetent leadership of Azerbaijan of early 1990s remained indifferent towards the bloody action making no effort to inform the international community about the massacre. They were not touched even by the fact that defenders of the city had not bowed down to the enemies but demonstrated heroism and devotion to the homeland in the battle with them.

Only after national leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev returned to power, the truth about the scale and horrors of the crimes committed by Armenian nationalists against Azerbaijanis and strong demand to give legal assessment to that was brought to the international community. President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev is insistently continuing this course.

Commemorating the innocent victims of the tragedy in Khojaly on these days of its 16th anniversary, the people of Azerbaijan once again with hope and belief call on the nations and peoples of the world as well as international organizations to defend truth and justice, condemn the Khojaly genocide and bring its culprits, organizers and executors to account.

Crime must not remain unpunished!

**AzerTAj**  
**20 February, 2008**

**Human Rights Commissioner made statement on Khojaly genocide  
(February 22, 2008)**

Human Rights Commissioner of Azerbaijan, Ombudsperson Elmira Suleymanova, made a statement on the 16th anniversary of Khojaly Genocide.

The statement says that according to international and national laws, the crime, committed by Armenians against Azerbaijanis in Khojaly in 1992, is the act of genocide. International law indicates that the genocide is against peace, humanity, and one of the severest international crimes.

The statement regrettably notes that international community has not given legal assessment to Khojaly genocide, during which human rights were brutally violated, and undertaken necessary steps to punish perpetrators of this terror.

The statement was sent to Secretary General of the United Nations, the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, international and European Ombudsman Organizations, Asian Ombudsman Association and embassies of foreign countries in Azerbaijan.

**AzerTAj**  
**February 22, 2008**

**Commemorative ceremony on 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Khojaly genocide held in Indonesia  
(February 22, 2008)**

A commemorative ceremony devoted to the 16th anniversary of the Khojaly Genocide was held at the State University of Jakarta, Indonesia.

The ceremony attendees was informed on the Khojaly Genocide and it was underlined that the tragedy was one of the gravest crimes against humanity, a spokesman of the Azerbaijani Embassy in Indonesia said.

Employees of the Azerbaijani Embassy in Indonesia spoke about Armenia's aggressive policy against Azerbaijan and the efforts of the Azerbaijani leadership to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict peacefully.

The event also briefed on successes of Azerbaijan's domestic and external policy, economic development of the country, its leading role in global projects, as well as increasing influence in region and in the world wholly.

Moreover, the ceremony attendees were distributed books entitled "Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict", published by the Azerbaijani Embassy in Indonesia, other materials about Khojaly Genocide and Azerbaijan.

**AzerTAj  
22 February, 2008**

**Captive land - Karabakh book presented  
(February 22, 2008)**

The book entitled “Terre occupe - Haut Karabakh” (Captive land - Karabakh) published in French was presented Friday at the International Press Center.

Bulent Gurcam, the author of the book and chairperson of “Belgium-Azerbaijan House” informed on the 8-year operating organization’s activity. He said the Organization has great role in forming and developing Azerbaijani Diaspora in Belgium, drawing the world community’s attention to the processes ongoing in Azerbaijan, as well as realizing various projects.

Speaking about the book, “Captive land - Karabakh”, Mr. Bulent Gurcam said his organization publishes relevant materials to form an objective idea on the Khojaly Genocide, as well as Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh in the world.

He also added the newly published book informs on some real facts including Yerevan’s (capital of Armenia) being an old Azerbaijani land, and Armenians’ moving to Azerbaijani territories, as well as genocide committed by them against Azerbaijani people.

He said the organization would hold a meeting devoted to the Khojaly Genocide in Brussels.

**AzerTAj  
22 February, 2008**

**Azerbaijan remembers victims of Khojaly massacre  
(February 22, 2008)**

As is known, Azerbaijanis around the world will commemorate one of the most tragic days in their history next week, marking the 16th year that has passed since hundreds of innocent men, women and children from the town of Khojaly in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan were slaughtered by Armenian troops.

Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States has disseminated a material to this end, whereby it is stated that the Khojaly massacre at the hands of Armenian troops stands as one of history's most chillingly brutal military acts against unarmed civilians.

On February 25, 1992, Armenian forces surrounded the town of Khojaly, telling civilians they would be allowed safe passage if they evacuated. As thousands left the town, Armenian troops opened fire. By the next morning, 613 innocent civilians had been murdered, including 63 children. Another 1,000 people were wounded and 1,275 taken hostage. To this day, 150 people from Khojaly remain missing.

Further, the statement gives list of the major media outlets covering the story in the following days described the massacre with horror:

-- The Sunday Times reported the atrocity with the headline, "Armenian Soldiers Massacre Hundreds of Fleeing Families" (March 1, 1992).

-- Newsweek magazine reported: "Many were killed at close range while trying to flee; some had their faces mutilated, others were scalped" (March 16, 1992).

-- The New York Times also described beheadings and acts of scalping (March 3, 1992).

-- Time magazine called the actions against Khojaly "grim and unconscionable," reporting that many of those killed had been mutilated (March 16, 1992).

-- The Washington Times wrote that video footage "backed accounts of the slaughter of women and children" (March 3, 1992).

In the most shocking admission of culpability, Armenia's then-defense minister Serge Sarkisian was quoted in the book "Black Garden" (by Tomas de Waal, NYU Press, 2003, page 85), as saying, "Before Khojaly the Azerbaijanis thought that the Armenians were people who could not raise their hands against the civilian population. We were able to break that stereotype."

To mark this act of genocide, February 26 is designated as a National Day of Mourning in Azerbaijan.

**AzerTAJ  
22 February, 2008**

**German Tv to broadcast programs on Khojaly tragedy  
(February 22, 2008)**

On the initiative of the Germany-based Azerbaijani Diaspora organizations, several German TV programs will hold arrangements dedicated to the 16th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy, the State Committee for Work with Azerbaijanis Living Abroad said.

The aim of the event is to inform the European community of the truth about the Khojaly tragedy.

Valeh Hajiyev, Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for the Work with Azerbaijanis Living Abroad on February 24, will deliver a speech on the Berlin Branch of the TGRT Channel, on 26 February in Dusseldorf on the Channel Europe, on 27 February in Frankfurt on Channel 7.

Azerbaijani documentary film 'Dua' ('Prayer') dedicated to Khojaly genocide will be broadcasted on TGRT Channel.

The 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Khojaly genocide will be commemorated in the Berlin, Mainz, Cologne, Frankfurt, Dusseldorf and Koblenz cities of Germany at support of the Azerbaijan Embassy in German and the Turkish Igdır municipality.

**AzerTAj  
22 February, 2008**

**Commemorative ceremony on 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Khojaly genocide held in Kuwait  
(February 22, 2008)**

The 16th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide will be commemorated in Kuwait, the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Kuwait said. In the ceremony held February 17, a documentary on Khojaly genocide made by Heydar Aliyev Foundation was shown, and photo exhibition organized.

Conference on Khojaly tragedy will be organized on February 20 for representative of mass media in Kuwait. Ambassador Shahin Abdullayev delivered lectures on the Khojaly tragedy, as well as gave detailed information on the atrocities the Armenians committed against the Turkish and Azerbaijani peoples in the latest two centuries. He underlined that the tragedy was one of the gravest crimes against humanity. Collection of booklets briefly provides detailed information on history of Karabakh, start of the conflict, Khojaly genocide, heavy sequences of Armenian aggression, terrorist acts of Armenian terrorist organizations against Azerbaijan were distribute to participants.

The newspapers of Kuwait “Al-Ray”, “Al-Gabas”, “Al-Anba”, “Al-Seyassah”, “Al Jareeda”, “Al-Roya”, “Al-Nahar” and “Awan” have published wide information about Khojaly genocide on February 21.

**AzerTAj  
22 February, 2008**

**Commemorative ceremony on Khojaly genocide held in Tashkent  
(February 24, 2008)**

The Association of the Azerbaijani Cultural Centers in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, held a commemorative ceremony devoted to the 16th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

Akif Agatalibov, chairman of the Association making a speech at the ceremony that brought together members of the Azerbaijani and Turkish Diasporas, said the Khojaly genocide was one of the gravest tragedies committed by Armenians against Azerbaijanis.

Speaking about Armenian savageries against Azerbaijani people, he emphasized the importance of efforts to inform the world community about the Tragedy.

Omar Salman, chairman of the Akhiska Turks Cultural Center in Tashkent, Nasraddin Mahammadaliyev, chairman of the International Cultural Center, Ikhtiyar Rza, prominent Azerbaijani poet residing in Uzbekistan and others addressing the ceremony condemned Armenian crimes against Azerbaijani people.

A documentary film about the genocide was demonstrated at the commemorative ceremony too.

**AzerTAj  
24 February, 2008**

**Meeting devoted to Khojaly genocide held in Istanbul  
(February 25, 2008)**

A crowded meeting devoted to the 16th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide was held in Taksim Square in Istanbul city of Turkey.

The meeting brought together representatives of Azerbaijani and Turkish communities, students, as well as Azerbaijanis residing in Istanbul.

Addressing the event Azerbaijani parliamentarian Ganira Pashayeva, Consul General of Azerbaijan to Istanbul Sayyad Salahli briefed the attendees on Armenian occupation policy against Azerbaijan and the Khojaly genocide. It was stressed unless Armenian military forces leave the occupied territories unconditionally, Azerbaijan will resort to military means to liberate its territories.

Another meeting devoted to the Khojaly genocide was held in Konak Square in Izmir city of Turkey. The meeting condemned Armenian barbarism against Azerbaijanis and Turks and called on world community to recognize the massacre as genocide.

**AzerTAj  
25 February, 2008**

**International conference on Khojaly tragedy held in Berlin  
(February 25, 2008)**

The Turkish municipality of Iğdir, consulate of Azerbaijan in Kars and Heydar Aliyev Foundation co-organized an international conference “Khojaly and realities of 1915 events” in the German capital of Berlin on Sunday.

The conference was attended by Turkish and Azerbaijani scholars, members of the Milli Majlis, representatives of the Turkish and Armenian Diasporas in Germany. They heard reports on the aggression, Armenian genocide policy against Turks and Azerbaijanis, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and its consequences.

Scholars delivered reports on the Khojaly tragedy, aggressive policy and terrorist ideology of Armenia.

The Heydar Aliyev Foundation works hard to raise world community`s awareness about the truth on Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The conference participants received books and special materials on the Khojaly genocide prepared by the Foundation.

**AzerTAj  
25 February, 2008**

**Monument to Khojaly genocide victims erected in Netherlands  
(February 25, 2008)**

The first monument to the Khojaly genocide victims and photo exhibition were inaugurated on February 24 on the initiative of the Netherlands-Azerbaijan Turkish Cultural Circle and with the support of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, the Azerbaijani Embassy in the Netherlands, as well as the State Committee for Work with Azerbaijanis Living Abroad.

The event brought together the delegation of the mentioned State Committee, members of diplomatic corps accredited to Hague, Azerbaijani and Turkish Diasporas functioning in the Netherlands, as well as foreign guests from European countries.

Making a speech at the meeting of Diaspora organizations, held following the opening ceremony, Azerbaijani Ambassador to the Netherlands Fuad Iskandarov briefed the attendees on Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev's policy aimed at resolving Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The Ambassador assessed the opening of the monument to the Khojaly genocide victims in the center of Europe as a very significant event.

**AzerTAj  
25 February, 2008**

**California University students and Amnesty International join for Khojaly commemoration event  
(February 26, 2008)**

As is reported, on February 25, 2008, a group of Azerbaijani students at the California State University San Bernardino (CSUSB) along with Amnesty International representatives at CSUSB organized an event in commemoration of the 16th anniversary of Khojaly Massacre. The representatives of the Consulate General of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijani-American Council (AAC) as well as over seventy CSUSB students and faculty members joined the presentation.

Opening the event, the head of Amnesty International chapter at CSUSB, Alfredo Bonilla, spoke about the human rights aspect of the massacre of Azerbaijanis in Khojaly and presented a video documenting the facts of this crime. Speaking on behalf of the Azerbaijani student group at CSUSB, Galib Rustamov informed attendees about the facts of the massacre and presented additional educational and visual material on this human tragedy to the audience.

Speaking further, Consul General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles, Elin Suleymanov, highlighted the fact that the units of Armenian army against unarmed Azerbaijani civilians committed Khojaly Massacre, and as such it was an act of ethnic cleansing. Dismissing persistent denials of the Armenian side about its involvement in Khojaly killings, Mr. Suleymanov referred to the book "My Brother's Road" by Markar Melkonian, who documented the accounts of his brother, an Armenian field commander Monte Melkonian, about the extreme brutality of Armenian forces during the occupation of Khojaly. Consul General further indicated the importance of proper recognition of Khojaly events and expressed concern over the fact that some of those suspected of perpetrating Khojaly Massacre now rose to power in Armenia through elections largely disputed by Armenian people.

**AzerTAj  
26 February, 2008**

**Turkey commemorates victims of Khojaly genocide  
(February 26, 2008)**

The Heydar Aliyev Foundation and Embassy of Azerbaijan to Turkey held numerous events on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of Khojaly Genocide.

On February 25, participants gathered in Kechioran region of Ankara to revere memory of Khojaly tragedy victims and laid flowers to the monument erected in their honor.

Addressing the meeting, Ambassador Zakir Hashimov, deputy of Azerbaijani Parliament Ganira Pashayeva, head of Kechioran municipality Turgut Altinok and other participants told of massacres committed by Armenians against people of Turkey and Azerbaijan.

On the same day, conference organized by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, the Turkish Women Friendship and Solidarity Association and Azerbaijani Embassy took place in the Turkish Standards Institution (TSI).

The event brought together representatives of the political parties of Turkey, Embassies and the journalists. The conference participants watched the documentary about Khojaly Genocide as well as familiarized themselves with photo and book exhibition.

In closing, telegrams of condolences of Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Ministers and MPs on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of Khojaly Genocide were read out.

**AzerTAj  
26 February, 2008**

**London Azerbaijan Society holds public information campaign on Khojaly genocide  
(February 26, 2008)**

The London Azerbaijan Society held a public information campaign on the 16th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide in the Great Britain.

The Society addressed to the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom David Miliband, 646 members of the House of Commons of the British Parliament and 78 members of the European Parliament, influential US media outlets, United Nations High Commissioner For Human Rights, OSCE PA President, head of OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, “Amnesty International”, “Human Rights Watch” organizations and foreign embassies in Azerbaijan. The books entitled “Khojaly tragedy - International View” and “International Visions: Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict over Karabakh” published by London Azerbaijan Society were attached to the appeal.

Assessing Armenian savageries in Khojaly city of Azerbaijan as one of the gravest crimes in the world, the appeal says committing the tragedy; Armenians have violated the Geneva Convention on Human Rights.

The Khojaly genocide is a tragedy against not only Azerbaijani people, but also the whole world. According to the norms and principles of international law, the world community must condemn the tragedy as a crime against humanity and increase pressure on Armenia to leave occupied territories of Azerbaijan, the Appeal says.

The Society-published book “Khojaly tragedy - an International View” includes articles reflected in influential mass media of the world about the Khojaly tragedy, reports of international organizations, impressions of foreign journalists witnessed the tragedy, as well as photos.

The main goal to publish the books is informing the world community about the Khojaly genocide and Nagorno-Karabakh conflict positively and exposing those who are responsible for the tragedy.

**AzerTAj  
26 February, 2008**

**Khojaly victims' memory revered in Canada  
(February 26, 2008)**

Quebec Azerbaijanis Association and Canada Azerbaijan Women Association held commemoration ceremonies in Monreal city of Canada on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of Khojaly Genocide, State Committee on Work with Azerbaijanis Living Abroad said.

Head of Quebec Azerbaijanis Association Masud Aliyev, Federation of Canada Turkey Associations Aydin Yurtchu, head of the Women Association Tunzala Bagirova told of history of Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict over Nagorno Karabakh, Khojaly massacre and crimes committed by Armenians against people of Azerbaijan and Turkey.

The meeting participants watched the documentary as well.

**AzerTAJ  
26 February, 2008**

**Khojaly genocide commemorated in Turkmenistan  
(February 26, 2008)**

A commemorative ceremony devoted to the 16th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide was held on February 26 in the Azerbaijani Embassy in Turkmenistan.

Elkhan Huseynov, Azerbaijani Ambassador to Turkmenistan speaking about Armenian savagery against innocent people in Khojaly in 1992 said the tragedy was a planned genocide act committed by Armenian terrorists against Azerbaijani people.

Those speaking at the event assessed the bloodshed as the gravest crime against humanity and emphasized the importance of international community's giving legal assessment to the genocide.

An exhibition devoted to the 16th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide, as well as a documentary film called "Prayer" was demonstrated in the event. Along with this books, brochures sent by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan on the genocide were distributed among the ceremony attendees.

**AzerTAj  
26 February, 2008**

**Exhibition commemorating Khojaly genocide organized in Turkey  
(February 26, 2008)**

The Azerbaijan Culture and Solidarity Association held an exhibition on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of Khojaly genocide in Adana, Turkey.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, head of the association Yagub Bulud described the genocide as a crime committed against not only Azeri Turks but also the whole humankind.

Bulud underlined about seven thousand Azeri Turks lived in Khojaly before its occupation.

He said according to official figures, Armenians cruelly killed 623 innocent people, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 old people, while 487 became disabled and 1,275 were captivated.

Bulud said Turks and Azeris must combine their efforts to make the realities of the tragedy known to the world.

The exhibition was arranged with the support of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

**AzerTAj  
26 February, 2008**

**Commemorative ceremony on Khojaly genocide held in Spain  
(February 27, 2008)**

Azerbaijani embassy in Spain held February 26 a commemorative ceremony devoted to the 16th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide, the embassy reported.

Representatives of Azerbaijani and Turkish Diaspora organizations attended the event, which started with a moment of silence.

Ambassador Mammad Aliyev spoke about Armenians` massacre against innocent people in Khojaly in 1992. He emphasized the importance of the international community`s giving legal assessment to the genocide.

The ceremony attendees condemned Armenian barbarism against Azerbaijani people.

The event also featured an exhibition and a documentary dedicated to the Khojaly genocide.

Journalists of Spanish newspapers “El Pais”, “El Mundo”, “La Razon” and “ABC” were among the participants.

**AzerTAj  
27 February, 2008**

**16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Khojaly genocide commemorated in London  
(February 27, 2008)**

The Azerbaijani embassy in Great Britain held a series of events commemorating the 16th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide at the University of Reading and Imperial War Museum (IWM) in London, the embassy said.

Azerbaijan's Minister of Culture and Tourism Abulfaz Garayev as well as British MPs, representatives of foreign countries' embassies in London, international research centers and local Azeri and Turkish communities, and Azerbaijani and foreign students studying at British universities attended the events.

During his speeches at the events, Azerbaijan's ambassador in London Fakhraddin Gurbanov said the Khojaly genocide is an unprecedented barbarism of Armenians against Azeris.

Speaking at the event, professor at the US Montana University, journalist and author of "Azerbaijan Dairy" book Thomas Goltz said there was a flood of media attention to the killing of innocent people in Khojaly by Armenians at that time, and described the tragedy as most terrible event in the history of humankind.

The events also featured "Khojaly in the eyes of children" exhibition of paintings, as well as a photo exhibition and a documentary dedicated to the tragedy.

**AzerTAj  
27 February, 2008**

**U.S. Congress commemorates Khojaly tragedy  
(February 27, 2008)**

The United States congressional representatives commemorated the anniversary of Khojaly tragedy.

Co-chairman of Congressional Azerbaijani Caucus Solomon P. Ortiz of Texas in the House of Representatives delivered a speech on the 16th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy.

The democratic congressional representative said on February 25-26, 1992, the town of Khojaly in the Nagorno Karabagh region of Azerbaijan was brutally attacked by Armenian forces. "The town of Khojaly, which was home to 7,000 people, was completely destroyed; a total of 613 people were killed, of which 106 were women and 83 were children, and 56 of whom are purported to have been killed with extreme cruelty and torture. Additionally, 1275 were taken hostage, 150 went missing; 487 people became disabled (76 of whom are teenagers); 8 families were wiped out; 25 children lost both of their parents, and 130 children lost one of their parents."

He said the Khojaly massacre was not an isolated incident. "In fact, the level of brutality and the atrocities committed at Khojaly set a pattern of destruction that Armenian troops would adhere to for the remainder of the Nagorno-Karabakh War."

Mr. Ortiz stressed that no one has been prosecuted for the crimes committed in Khojaly and, "unfortunately, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict still remains."

He pointed out that on January 21, 2008, Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov noted in the Wall Street Journal that it has been almost 14 years since the Armenia-Azerbaijan war ended, but Armenian troops remain on Azerbaijan's territory.

Minister Mammadyarov opined: "We need to urgently conclude this process. Maintaining the status quo is just too costly. The resolution of this issue would secure regional security and economic growth."

Member of the Congressional Caucus Virginia Foxx of North Carolina in the House of Representatives also spoke of the tragedy. The congressional representative said while there has been considerable congressional attention to tragic events, which took place in Somalia, Rwanda, Cambodia, Bosnia, Darfur, and elsewhere, very little light has shined on what happened in 1992, less than 20 years ago in the Caucasus.

She stated that everything changed for the small, little known Azerbaijani town of Khojaly between February 25-26, 1992. "Sixteen years later, for the people of Azerbaijan and the region, the word "Khojaly" stirs up memories of pain and sorrow", she underscored.

Ms. Foxx announced that many human rights groups and media outlets at the time sought to draw attention to the events and solicit international condemnation.

She said: "Human Rights Watch called the tragedy at the time "the largest massacre to date in the conflict." The extent of the cruelty of this massacre against women, children and the elderly was unfathomable. Memorial, a Russian human rights group, reported, "scores of the corpses bore traces of profanation."

The Congresswoman added that on November 29, 1993, Newsweek quoted a senior U.S. Government official describing the aftermath of Armenia's occupation, "What we see now is a systematic destruction of every village in their way. It's vandalism."

Members of the congress urged the congress to join Azerbaijanis in commemorating the tragedy. They stressed that the world should know about and remember Khojaly.

**AzerTAJ  
27 February, 2008**

**Khojaly genocide victims commemorated in Italy  
(February 27, 2008)**

Azerbaijani embassy to Italy held February 26 a commemorative ceremony devoted to the 16th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide, the embassy reported.

Addressing the ceremony, Ambassador Emil Karimov spoke of history of Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, the Khojaly massacre and other crimes committed by Armenians against Azerbaijanis.

He emphasized the importance of making efforts towards bringing the realities of the Khojaly tragedy to the world community.

Elkhan Aliyev, an Azerbaijani residing in Italy, called the Azerbaijanis to be more active in familiarizing the international community with truths about the genocide.

Then, the ceremony attendees watched a documentary about the Khojaly massacre.

**AzerTAj  
27 February, 2008**

**Chairman of Caucasian Muslims` Board meets Turkish Premier  
(February 27, 2008)**

Chairman of the Caucasian Muslims` Board Sheikhlislam Allahshukur Pashazade met with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan as part of his visit to Turkey on Tuesday.

The Turkish Premier stressed praised the role religious figures play in boosting bilateral relations between the two countries.

He expressed condolences to the people of Azerbaijan on Khojaly genocide.

Erdogan praised Allahshukur Pashazade`s participating in Salat al-Janazah (prayer for a dead Muslim) for Turkish soldiers who fell shahids in a fight with PKK terrorists.

Chairman of the Caucasian Muslims` Board Sheikhlislam Allahshukur Pashazade said there is a high level of relations between Azerbaijan`s and Turkey`s religious authorities.

He presented the Turkish Premier with “Sheikhlislam Order” for his contribution to developing friendship and brotherhood between the two countries.

Earlier in the day, Pashazade laid a wreath at the monument to nationwide leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev at the Heydar Aliyev Park in Batikent, Ankara.

As part of his Turkish trip, he also met with the country`s state ministers Sait Yazicioglu and Mehmet Aydin. Azeri Ambassador in Ankara Zakir Hashimov was present at the meetings.

**AzerTAj  
27 February, 2008**

**Khojaly genocide commemorated in Tajikistan  
(February 27, 2008)**

Azerbaijan's embassy in Tajikistan held a ceremony to revere martyrs of Khojaly genocide.

The event brought together representatives of Azerbaijani Diaspora in Dushanbe, as well as representatives of Tajik public and journalists.

The participants observed a minute of silence to revere the memory of victims.

First Secretary of the embassy Agababayev spoke about the genocide committed against defenders and innocent people of Khojaly. He added Armenian terrorists and ex-Soviet's 366th Motor Regiment razed Khojaly to the ground, abused at the bodies of victims and subjected captives to unbelievable tortures.

Speakers of the event, including Hajiyeva, Shukurov and Hamidov stressed Khojaly tragedy is a heinous crime not only against Azerbaijani people but also against the whole humanity.

The attendees saw an exhibition of book and photo featuring Khojaly genocide and watched a documentary on the tragedy.

The embassy has sent collection of documents, as well as "Armenian terror" and "Khojaly genocide" books to the embassies of foreign countries and international organizations in Tajikistan.

**AzerTAj  
27 February, 2008**

**Protest action on Khojaly tragedy held in Izmir  
(February 27, 2008)**

A series of ceremonies devoted to the 16th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide were held in Izmir city of Turkey.

The ceremonies, organized by Azerbaijani students studying in Izmir, Azerbaijani Culture House and Solidarity

Society, appealed to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey to recognize the Khojaly tragedy as genocide. Video materials, brochures on the Tragedy were distributed among representatives of political parties, societies, non-governmental organizations functioning in Izmir.

Prior to these ceremonies, a conference on the Khojaly genocide was held on February 22 in the Turkish Education Center. The conference brought together majority of foreign students studying here.

On February 23, a protest action on the Genocide was held in the central Konak square in Izmir. The attendees of the action were distributed CD and brochures on the Tragedy. It should be mentioned that Turkish mass media representatives paid special attention to the actions.

**AzerTAj  
27 February, 2008**

**Azerbaijan's embassy to Kyrgyzstan commemorated 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Khojaly tragedy  
(February 27, 2008)**

Azerbaijan's embassy to Kyrgyzstan held a ceremony to commemorate the 16th anniversary of Khojaly tragedy at the conference hall of the State History Museum of the country.

Representatives of Azeri and Turkish Diaspora organizations living in Bishkek as well as Turkish businessmen and journalists attended the event.

The attendees observed a minute of silence to revere victims of the tragedy.

The participants saw a photo exhibition at the foyer of the Museum featuring Khojaly tragedy, Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan and terror acts committed by Armenians.

Advisor of the Embassy Elkhan Zeynalov spoke of crimes committed by Armenians against Azerbaijanis and Turks and described Khojaly genocide as the bloodiest of them.

Speaker at the event, including members of Kyrgyz Parliament Ernest Akbarov, chairman of Azeri Culture Center in Bishkek Akif Allahverdiyev and the aged member of Azerbaijan's Diaspora Asad Hasanov condemned barbarism by Armenians committed against Azerbaijanis.

The ceremony adopted address to Kyrgyz Parliament, as well as representative offices of embassies and international organizations in the country over Khojaly tragedy.

Employees of Azerbaijan embassy presented books, disks and brochures featuring the genocide, Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan to Kyrgyzstan's Presidential Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as to each member of Kyrgyz Parliament, foreign embassies, international organizations and local and foreign journalists.

**AzerTAj  
27 February, 2008**

**Commemorative ceremony on Khojaly genocide held in Romania  
(February 27, 2008)**

Representation of Heydar Aliyev Foundation in Romania held February 26 a commemorative ceremony devoted to the 16th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide, Azerbaijan's embassy to Romania reported.

The event was attended by the members of Romania-Azerbaijan Friendship Society, Azerbaijan-Romania Culture and Youth Association, Romania-Azerbaijan Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Turkish and Tatar communities in Bucharest as well as Azerbaijanis residing and studying in Romania and representatives of the Diplomatic Corps and Mass Media.

Addressing the commemorative ceremony, Ambassador Eldar Hasanov told of history of Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh conflict, Khojaly massacre and crimes committed by Armenians against the people of Azerbaijan.

Head of Heydar Aliyev Foundation in Romania Iqbal Hajiyeu, Advisor of the Azerbaijani Embassy in Romania, Tural Rzayev, members of the Romania-Azerbaijan Friendship Society, Romania-Azerbaijan Chamber of Industry and Commerce also spoke of the Armenians' barbarism against innocent and defenseless Azerbaijanis.

The ceremony attendees watched the documentary reflecting the Khojaly genocide and familiarized themselves with the book entitled "War against Azerbaijan" published by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Moreover, the ceremony attendees familiarized themselves with the photo exhibition featuring horrors of the tragedy.

Then, the books on Karabakh truth and Khojaly genocide prepared by the Foundation, published in the Romanian language, as well as books written by the Austrian writer Erik Feigl on "Armenian Mythomania" were presented to the ceremony attendees.

The articles featuring Khojaly genocide were published in the Romanian newspapers and news was broadcasted on the Romanian OTV and DDTV television channels.

**AzerTAj  
27 February, 2008**

**16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Khojaly tragedy commemorated in Uzbekistan  
(February 27, 2008)**

Azerbaijan's embassy to Uzbekistan held a ceremony commemorating the 16th anniversary of Khojaly tragedy.

The event brought together members of Azeri and Turk Diaspora living in Tashkent, as well as representatives of Uzbek public and journalists.

The attendees observed a minute's silence to commemorate memory of the victims of tragedy.

Ambassador Namig Abbasov spoke about the reasons creating Khojaly tragedy. Abbasov said the massacre committed in Khojaly by Armenian fascists and their supporters is one of the most horrible tragedies in the 20th century.

The Ambassador said "Russian 366th Motor Regiment was directly involved in destruction of Khojaly. They killed women, old people, children and even infants in arms. The captives were subjected to unbelievable tortures, oppressions and insults."

Speaking at the event, Turkey's ambassador to Uzbekistan Kamal Asya, chairman of cultural center of Ahiska

Turks Omar Salman and Azerbaijanis, including Sudaba Mammadova and Yusif Aliyev accused Armenians and their supporters on that barbarism.

The attendees watched a documentary titled "Destroyed City" and were given brochures about Khojaly tragedy.

**AzerTAj  
27 February, 2008**

**Website about Khojaly genocide presented  
(February 27, 2008)**

Website reflecting horrors of Khojaly tragedy was presented at the International press-center, on Thursday.

Deputy of the Milli Majlis (Parliament of Azerbaijan) Mrs. Gular Ahmadova underlined that aim of the website is to bring realities about Khojaly massacre, committed 16 years ago by the Armenian armed subunits, to the world community. “Khojaly Genocide is the most terrible event of the Karabakh war, and brutality committed by Armenians is the crime against humanity”, said Mrs Ahmadova. She also noted that articles of the site will be published in Azeri, Russian and English languages as well as photos reflecting the horrors of the tragedy placed.

Head of UNICEF Baku office Mr. Hanna Singer noted that this site is very important to perpetuate the history. Such brutality against children has never been committed in any other part of the world. Khojaly tragedy is the wound, which will never heal up, said Ms. Singer.

Later, meeting participants familiarized themselves with the site.

**AzerTAj  
27 February, 2008**

**Influential Indonesian newspaper publishes article on Khojaly genocide  
(February 27, 2008)**

«The Jakarta Post», Indonesia's influential English-language newspaper published an article on the Khojaly genocide. The article provides detailed information on the savageries committed by Armenian armed forces in Khojaly in 1992 and says the tragedy was one of the terrible crimes during Armenia-Azerbaijan war over Nagorno-Karabakh. It also says Armenian officials will be punished for the Khojaly genocide, as well as their crimes in the war over Nagorno-Karabakh.

**AzerTAj  
27 February, 2008**

**Khojaly genocide victims commemorated in St.Petersburg, Russia  
(February 27, 2008)**

A commemorative ceremony on the Khojaly genocide organized by the Azerbaijan Consulate General in Saint-Petersburg was held in the National Library of Russia in Saint-Petersburg. Addressing the event representatives of Azerbaijani Diaspora organizations, members of youth movement, teachers of the St. Petersburg State University and others stressed the Khojaly tragedy was one of the gravest crimes of XX century.

During the second part of the event, books and brochures about the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, as well as the Khojaly genocide prepared by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation were presented to the National Library of Russia.

**AzerTAj  
27 February, 2008**

**Commemorative ceremonies on Khojaly genocide held in Pakistan  
(February 27, 2008)**

Azerbaijani Embassy in Pakistan held a number of commemorative ceremonies on February 25-26 in National University of Modern Languages in Islamabad.

The ceremonies brought together employees of the Azerbaijani Embassy, members of Pakistan-Azerbaijan Friendship Society, as well as Azerbaijani scientists living in Islamabad.

Eynulla Medetli, Azerbaijani Ambassador to Pakistan and other speakers assessed the savageries committed by Armenians in Khojaly in 1992 as an act of genocide.

The Azerbaijani Ambassador also spoke about nationwide leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev's great efforts in the direction of recognition of Khojaly genocide by the international community.

**AzerTAj  
27 February, 2008**

**New website in French to contain information on Khojaly genocide  
(February 27, 2008)**

Forum of Azerbaijani Students in Europe (FASE) created a French-language website to inform the international community about realities of the Republic of Azerbaijan and great tragedies that happened in the country's history.

The website [www.khodjali.fr](http://www.khodjali.fr) contains information about the history of Khojaly town of Azerbaijan, bloodshed committed by the 366th Motor Regiment on February 25-26 in 1992, articles about the Khojaly genocide published in foreign mass media, official documents condemning the tragedy, photos and video materials, as well as information about Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, spokesman of the State Committee on Work with Azerbaijanis Living Abroad said.

FACE prepares another website called [www.20janvier.fr](http://www.20janvier.fr). The domain has already been purchased and preparation work on the website is underway. Detailed information on crimes committed by the Soviet troops will be posted on the website. FACE also plans to build a website entitled [www.azerfrance.fr](http://www.azerfrance.fr). This portal has been purchased, too. The website will provide readers with information about Azerbaijan-France relations, as well as activity of Azerbaijanis and Azerbaijani Diaspora organizations in France. In addition to this, French readers will have opportunities to get news on Azerbaijan on the website.

**AzerTAj  
27 February, 2008**

**“Khojaly: unforgettable tragedy” photo exhibition held in US  
(February 29, 2008)**

A three-day photo exhibition called “Khojaly: unforgettable tragedy” was held in the US George Washington University.

The exhibition organized by the University’s Turkish Students’ Association aroused great interest of Americans. According to the Vice-President of the Association, about two hundred people got acquainted with Armenian savageries on the first day of the exhibition.

In his remarks at the event, Tomas Golts, professor of the Montana State University and well-known journalist condemned the bloodshed committed by Armenians in Azerbaijan, saying it was his duty to speak on the Khojaly genocide, as he had been one of the foreign witnesses of the tragedy.

Azerbaijani Ambassador to the US Yashar Aliyev said the Khojaly genocide victims were commemorated in New York, Los-Angeles, Houston and other US cities.

Two members of the US Congress made a statement on the Khojaly genocide and a member of the Congress from California recognized the Khojaly genocide.

**AzerTAj  
29 February, 2008**

**Chairman of State Committee for Working with Azerbaijanis Residing Abroad  
gives press conference on results of 2007 and outstanding tasks in 2008  
(March 1, 2008)**

Nazim Ibrahimov, Chairman of the State Committee for Working with Azerbaijanis Residing Abroad, held a press conference on results of 2007 and outstanding tasks in 2008, Friday at the New Azerbaijan Party's headquarters.

He said the Committee tried to achieve qualitative changes in the activities of Azerbaijani Diaspora in 2007. On the important events held last year, he mentioned the first forum of heads of Azerbaijani and Turkish Diaspora Organizations held March 9, 2007 in Baku, and the 11th friendship, fraternity and cooperation congress of Turkish States and Societies.

Nazim Ibrahimov said the Committee has done much work to coordinate activities of Azerbaijani communities in one country from a single center. He also told of the efforts to improve the situation of Azerbaijanis in Russia and Georgia and safeguard their rights.

Nazim Ibrahimov said the Committee threw its support behind the projects implemented by Diaspora organizations to mark 20 January tragedy, Khojaly massacre, 31 March (Day of Genocide of Azerbaijanis) and popularize Azerbaijani culture abroad.

The Committee is planning to organize meetings in a number of countries, and arrange trips of foreign parliamentary, governmental, business delegations to Azerbaijan. The Committee and the National Academy of Sciences are also scheduled to develop jointly the "World Azerbaijanis Charter".

**AzerTAj  
01 March, 2008**

**Khojaly slaughter victims commemorated in California  
(March 1, 2008)**

The Consulate General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles, US-Azerbaijan Council co-organized Friday the event to mark the 16th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide at the University of California, Berkeley.

President of the US-Azerbaijan Council Javid Huseynov told of the atrocities committed against Azerbaijani civilians by University alumnus, famous Armenian terrorist, and activist of the ASALA terrorist organization Monte Melkonian

Consul General Elin Suleymanov said those behind Khojaly massacre are now in power in Armenia.  
He said the Armenian leaders who committed the massacre are war criminals.

**AzerTAj  
01 March, 2008**

**Italy hosts conference on Ethnic Conflicts in South Caucasus  
(March 1, 2008)**

The conference entitled “Unsettled Ethnic Conflicts in the South Caucasus Region” was held in Padova, Italy to inform about the ethnic conflicts in the South Caucasus and discuss the ways of their solution.

According to the State Committee for Working with Azerbaijanis Living in Foreign Countries, although representatives of the Azerbaijani, Georgian and Armenian NGOs working Italy were invited to the conference, Armenian organizations did not join the conference.

During the event, Zaur Farhadov, chairman of the Friendship Italy-Azerbaijan Association, told of the 20 January tragedy, Khojaly genocide and Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

**AzerTAJ  
01 March, 2008**

**Canadian journalist Scott Taylor mentions Khojaly tragedy in his notes  
(December 3, 2008)**

We capture your attention to valuable notes of Canadian journalist Scott Taylor from his trip to the South Caucasus in late 2008. Scott Taylor a former professional soldier, editor and publisher of *Esprit de Corps*, a military magazine since 1988. He is an author of five best-sellers where he described ongoing processes during wars in Cambodia, Balkans, and most recently Iraq.

**The deep wide divides of the Caucasus**

By Scott Taylor  
December 3, 2008

Baku, Azerbaijan — the final destination on my recent seven-country tour of the volatile Caucasus was Baku, Azerbaijan. One of my commitments during this short visit was to give a lecture at the Azeri Ministry of Foreign Affairs University. About four dozen former ambassadors, faculty members and students attended my presentation.

While it is admittedly a challenge to try to define the complex political and strategic situation in the Caucasus to a North American readership, it is decidedly much dodgier when you attempt the same thing with an audience composed of active participants from the region. Given the level of tension that still exists between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, almost every word you could utter has potential to be contentious. In 1991, when Azerbaijan declared independence from the collapsing Soviet Union, the ethnic Armenian majority in the province of Nagorno-Karabakh held its own referendum in which it unilaterally declared the region independent from Azerbaijan.

While inter-ethnic violence had already begun to increase in this region at an alarming rate during the late 1980's, the declared secession of Nagorno-Karabakh sparked an all-out war between the Azeris and Armenians. To support the ethnic Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh, troops from the neighbouring Republic of Armenia first forced a land corridor into the disputed province. Then, over the course of two bloody years of combat, the Armenians captured and ethnically cleansed seven additional Azeri provinces around Nagorno-Karabakh to create what they call a security zone.

By the time the international community successfully brokered a ceasefire in 1994, an estimated 30,000 people had been killed, 100,000 wounded and some 1.3 million civilians (one million Azeris and 300,000 Armenians) had been forcibly displaced from their homes. Over the past 14 years, the UN has passed four resolutions calling for an Armenian withdrawal from the seven occupied provinces, but to date this sovereign Azeri territory remains a bargaining chip for the Armenians in any negotiated settlement on the future status of Nagorno-Karabakh.

At the beginning of my lecture, I described how I had been required to obtain a visa from the Nagorno-Karabakh embassy in Yerevan, Armenia before I made my trip into the disputed territory. Several hands shot up instantly in protest to my statement and a bright young Azeri student stood to correct me: "There can be no embassy of Nagorno-Karabakh in Yerevan because even Armenia refuses to recognize their declared independence."

While this is indeed Armenia's official stance, I reminded my audience that the people of Nagorno-Karabakh recognize their own independence, fly their own flag, have their own anthem and also maintain their one and only embassy in Yerevan. The next interruption occurred when I mentioned my travels to Nagorno-Karabakh's capital city, Stepanakert. As soon as I said the word, a low grumble came from my audience, hands shot up and another student rose to admonish me. "You mean the city of Henkendi?" he asked.

I had to admit that I had never heard of that word, and from the highway signs to maps to written accounts of the war, I had only ever seen the name Stepanakert. "Henkendi was the old Azeri-Turkic name of the capital, but the Soviets changed it to Stepanakert in the 1920s," I was advised. On Azeri maps published since their independence from the Soviet Union, all place names have been replaced with the former Turkic ones. The Armenians also conducted this renaming process, and, as it had been very difficult to find accurate maps of the region in Canada, I had acquired one in Yerevan.

The Armenians had produced this particular map in 2002 and it included a separate handy chart, which listed all the former place names juxtaposed with the current ones. Despite the catalogue of name changes, I was still unable to accurately correspond some of my research to a location on the map. Outside of Baku at a refugee camp, I had interviewed 28 Azeri survivors of the Feb. 26, 1992 massacre in the town of Khojaly. On that

Administrative Department of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
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fateful night, a combat force of Armenians had routed the Azeri militia and completely cleansed the Azeri enclave of all inhabitants. In the process, 613 Azeris were killed – mostly civilians – including 83 small children. Thousands more were injured or missing.

At the time, Human Rights Watch reported this incident to be "the largest massacre to date in the conflict" and Azerbaijan subsequently declared Feb. 26 to be a national day of mourning. Following my lecture, I asked one of the Azeri students to find Khojaly on my Armenian-produced map. After a protracted, head-scratching silence, he looked up bewildered and said, "It's not there — they've simply erased it from existence.

"There are always at least two sides to the history of every conflict, but in the Caucasus that divide seems wider and deeper than most.

**[www.justiceforkhojaly.org](http://www.justiceforkhojaly.org)  
03 December, 2008**

**Azerbaijan's embassy to Indonesia reveres memory of Khojaly victims  
(February 19, 2009)**

Azerbaijan's embassy to Indonesia and the Philippines has convened an event in Jakarta to commemorate the 17th anniversary of Khojaly tragedy.

Speaking at the event, Ambassador Ibrahim Hajiyev gave detailed information about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. He said Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan resulted in occupation of twenty percent of the country's territory and emergence of over a million refugees and internally displaced people.

The diplomat said 17 years ago, on February 25-26, 1992, the Armenian armed units committed one of the severest genocides in the history of humanity against Azerbaijanis living in Khojaly town. "The Armenian nationalists brutally killed 613 innocent people, including 106 women and 63 children. Besides, 487 people were left disabled, while 1275, including the old, children and women were taken hostage, and underwent severe torture and humiliation", he said.

The event gathered together ambassadors of various countries to Jakarta, including Pakistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Somali, United Arab Emirates as well as Indonesian officials, MPs, representatives of business circles and journalists.

Participants also saw a documentary on the genocide.

**AzerTAc  
19 February, 2009**

**Exhibition “with eyes of Khojaly youth” opened in Istanbul  
(February 21, 2009)**

Exhibition “With the eyes of Khojaly youth” today has opened in Istanbul, Turkey, as a part of “Justice for Khojaly” international information and propagation campaign, initiated by Leyla Aliyeva, General Coordinator of the OIC Youth Foundation on Intercultural Dialogue of Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYFDC) of OIC (Organisation of Islamic Conference). The main goal of the campaign is to bring the realities about Khojaly Genocide committed by Armenians on February 26, 1992 to the world community. Official opening ceremony of the campaign will be held on February 26. The campaign`s internet site [www.justiceforkhojaly.org](http://www.justiceforkhojaly.org) will also be presented in a number of cities of the US, Europe and Asia.

The exhibition will demonstrate photos of youth related with Khojaly massacre. Turkey`s MPs, members of the government, scientists and journalists will attend the event.

**AzerTaj  
21 February, 2009**

**Khojaly genocide commemorated at University, where one of tragedy organizers once studied  
(February 23, 2009)**

An event was held at the University of Berkeley in the frame of campaign launched by USA Azerbaijanis on the anniversary of Khojaly genocide.

University tutors and students, representatives of Azerbaijani Diaspora, attended the event organized by Azerbaijani-American Council, Turkish-speaking Students Association of Berkeley University and Northern California Cultural Center. Chairman of Azerbaijani-American Council Javid Huseynov and president of Turkish-Speaking Students Association Ulduz Berenjfurush addressed the gathering.

Javid Huseynov and Ulduz Berenjfurush said the ceremony of the public campaign aiming to inform the world community about Khojaly genocide is held on the initiative of Leyla Aliyeva, coordinator on intercultural dialogue of OIC Youth Forum on February 26, 2009. The events will be held in large American cities, including Houston, New York, Washington and Los Angeles.

As stated, the University of Berkeley commemorates the victims of Khojaly genocide for the second time. Terrorist, who committed savageries against civilians in Khojaly Monte Melkonian, once studied at this university.

Shafag Akifgizi, special correspondent of AzerTAc in Washington, said the massacre committed by Armenian militants in Khojaly was so insidious and terrible that on the day of tragedy and later during a month the leading world media, including newspapers Washington Post, Washington Times, Independent, magazine Newsweek, BBC TV have consecutively reported about the tragedy. On those days, the foreign journalists were writing about unprecedented savageries of Armenian terrorists.

Representative of Strategic Research Center under Azerbaijani President Rashad Karimov said the Khojaly tragedy is a war crime and the culprits have to be punished.

Azerbaijani MPs Havva Mammadova and Asim Mollazade, renowned American writer and journalist Mr. Thomas Goltz, who informed the international community about Khojaly genocide, representative of Strategic Research Center under Azerbaijani President Rashad Karimov and journalist Shafag Akifgizi addressed the event.

They underlined the importance of informing the world community about Khojaly truths and bring the perpetrators to response in the International Court of Justice. They also discussed legal aspects of Khojaly genocide and called the perpetrators of the tragedy war criminals.

Then, a book on the victims of Khojaly genocide was presented. The author, Member of Parliament Havva Mammadova, said the book was written on the base of researches she has made since 1992.

Following this, documentary film about Khojaly genocide made by Heydar Aliyev Foundation and the report prepared by Shafag Akifgizi for CNN in 1997 were demonstrated.

Khojaly genocide victims were commemorated by a minute silence.

**AzerTAc  
23 February, 2009**

**Turkey`s ruling makes statement on Khojaly genocide  
(February 25, 2009)**

Ankara, February 25 (AzerTAc). Turkey`s ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) has released a statement on the 17th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

In the light of Armenians` intensified propaganda of the so-called “genocide”, international community is not interested in the Khojaly massacre given eyewitnesses and photographs exist.

AKP`s statement says: “Khojaly massacre is the grave tragedy for Azerbaijan and the whole Turkic world. Hundreds of civilians including women and children were brutally killed 17 years ago in the town of Khojaly in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Official sources, testimonial evidence and documents prove that after occupation of Khojaly people seized by Armenia armed forces were brutally tortured. International human rights organizations described Khojaly developments as the biggest massacre during the occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh. The main aim of the Turkey`s foreign policy is to achieve peace, stability and progress based on cooperation. Our Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says we want to have friends rather than enemies. However, we cannot allow our people to be cast slurs on once their wound has not yet healed Khojaly massacre is sorrow for all of us. We neither forget the history nor want to build the future on the dark of the past. We curse committers of the massacre. May Allah rest our dead brothers` souol in peace”

**AzerTAc  
25 February, 2009**

**Khojaly victims remembered in British Imperial War Museum  
(February 25, 2009)**

London, 25 February (AzerTAc). Azerbaijan's embassy to London has arranged a commemorative ceremony for victims of the Khojaly genocide in British Imperial War Museum, London.

The event brought together British government officials and members of Parliament, Liberal Democrat Mike Hancock, diplomats of foreign embassies accredited in London, journalists and members of the Azerbaijani and Turkish communities.

Addressing the event, Ambassador Fakhraddin Gurbanov called the Khojaly genocide "one of the bloody pages of the history of the Azerbaijani people." The Ambassador cited toll of the dead and wounded in the tragedy, saying "613 innocent people - 106 women, 63 children and 70 the old – were killed; 1275 taken hostage, with 155 of them still missing; while 487, of them 76 underage people, were left disabled".

"Fifty six of those killed were murdered with extreme brutality as some of them were burnt alive, others had their eyes put out and were scalped and beheaded; pregnant women were bayoneted in the stomach" he added.

The diplomat also expressed regret over the fact "the world community and international organizations have not yet given political and legal assessment to this vandalism."

Tamara Daragadze, an investigator on South Caucasus, described the Khojaly tragedy as "the crime not only against the people of Azerbaijan, but also the whole humanity and universal values." Daragadze echoed the Azeri Ambassador's regret that "the tragedy has not been properly assessed by the international community and the world's leading organizations".

The commemorative ceremony also saw the launch of "Justice for Khojaly" campaign initiated by Leyla Aliyeva, coordinator on intercultural dialogue of OIC Youth Forum, and a Heydar Aliyev Foundation-made documentary on the genocide.

**AzerTAc  
25 February, 2009**

**Rok's Yonhap: Azerbaijan denounces Armenians on anniversary of “Khojaly tragedy”  
(February 26, 2009)**

SEOUL, Feb. 26 (Yonhap) - Marking the 17th anniversary of the so-called Khodjaly tragedy" on Thursday, the embassy of Azerbaijan in Seoul issued a statement condemning Armenian nationalists for their mass killing of Azerbaijani people in 1992. A series of commemorative events devoted to the anniversary were held in Azerbaijan and other parts of the world this week, according to the embassy. "On Feb. 26, 1992, Armenian armed groups supported by military personnel completely ruined the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly, killing 613 Azerbaijani people, including 106 women and 83 children. As a result of the genocide, 1275 innocent people were also taken as hostages, with the fate of over 150 still remaining unknown," the embassy said in the statement. "The Khojaly tragedy became a follow-up and bloody page of the policy of ethnic cleansing and genocide pursued by the Armenian nationalists and their patrons against Azerbaijani people over almost two hundred years... Such severe crimes against humanity should not be repeated in the future," it noted. The statement asserted that the organizers of the Khojaly genocide must face justice, referring to the Azerbaijani government's ongoing move to petition the International Criminal Court in the Hague to punish the executors.

Seoul, South Korea  
[WNC: Yonhap](#), February 26, 2009

**Khojaly victims remembered in St. Petersburg  
(February 27, 2009)**

St. Petersburg, 27 February (AzerTAc). The 17th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide was commemorated in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The event started with drawing exhibition called “Khojaly in children`s eyes”.

The exhibition was followed by a documentary developed by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

Speakers, including chairman of Azerbaijanis` national-cultural autonomy in St. Petersburg and representative of the Baku State University called the Khojaly genocide ‘the most terrible tragedy of 20th century.’

Azerbaijan`s Consul General Gudsı Osmanov presented a website of the “Justice for Khojaly” campaign ([www.justiceforkhojaly.org](http://www.justiceforkhojaly.org)) initiated by chief Coordinator on Intercultural Dialogue of OIC Youth Forum Mrs. Leyla Aliyeva.

Honorable guest of the event, academician of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences and author of the book “Bloody Maelstrom of Karabakh” Yuri Pompeyev said the Khojaly genocide was a planned massacre of Armenians.

The commemorative event was demonstrated on one of St. Petersburg`s influential channels REN-TV.

A newspaper “Vecherny Peterburg” published an article covering the 17th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

**AzerTAc  
February 27, 2009**

**Khojaly commemorated in Vienna  
(February 27, 2009)**

Baku, 27 February (AzerTAc). The Azerbaijan Academic Union in Austria organized the action dedicated to the 17th anniversary of the Khojaly massacre. The event took place at the Stefan Square of Vienne and the adjacent highly-attended streets of the Austrian capital. A lot of books, booklets and other documentation related to the Khojaly genocide and Nagorno Karabakh conflict available in different languages were presented to the residents of Vienna. The Khojaly massacre video and photos as well as the [www.justiceforkhojaly.org](http://www.justiceforkhojaly.org) web site triggered by Leyla Aliyeva, coordinator of inter-cultural dialogue for the Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation, were screened at the booth, which was erected at the center of the Stefan Square.

During the action, allowed by the Vienna City Municipality and Police office, Azerbaijani students raised the banners, posters and spread booklets and leaflets to draw attention to Khojaly massacre and occupation of the Azerbaijani territories by Armenia.

**AzerTAc  
February 27, 2009**

**Azerbaijan embassy in Madrid remembers Khojaly victims  
(February 26, 2009)**

Azerbaijan embassy to Spain has arranged a commemorative event marking the 17th anniversary of Khojaly genocide.

The event brought together representatives of Azerbaijani and Turkish Diasporas, as well as members of local public and journalists of leading Spanish newspapers, including El Pais, El Mundo, La Razon and ABC.

Ambassador Mammad Aliyev spoke of the tragedy's details. He said, "in February of 1992 Armenians committed the most horrible crime against the whole mankind". The Azeri diplomat said "only after Azerbaijan nationwide leader Heydar Aliyev's returning to power, the horrible crimes committed by Armenian butchers against our people, as well as truths about Khojaly genocide became known to the world community. Today, Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev is steadily continuing this policy".

The Embassy distributed Heydar Aliyev Foundation-made books, brochures and CDs about the Khojaly genocide among the participants of the commemorative event.

**AzerTAc  
26 February, 2009**

**Azerbaijan embassy to Turkmenistan marks 17th anniversary of Khojaly genocide  
(February 26, 2009)**

Azerbaijan embassy in Ashgabat has organized a commemorative event on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of Khojaly genocide. The ceremony started with the performance of Azerbaijan`s anthem which followed with the observance of a minute of silence.

Ambassador Elkhan Huseynov spoke of the tragedy`s details, saying “on this day in 1992 the Armenian invaders attacked Khojaly, killing hundreds of civilians, with most bodies brutally mutilated.” He expressed regret over the fact “the international community has not yet given a legal assessment to the genocide”.

Other speakers echoed the Ambassador`s remarks, calling the world community and international organizations to express unbiased position on the Khojaly genocide and Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Azerbaijan Ombudswoman`s statement on the 17th anniversary of Khojaly genocide was read out during the event.

The participants also viewed a photo stand featuring terrible moments of the tragedy, and saw relevant documentaries.

The embassy distributed Heydar Aliyev Foundation-made books and CDs about the Khojaly genocide among the participants of the commemorative event.

**AzerTAc  
February 26, 2009**

**Azerbaijan`s embassy in Egypt organizes commemorative events  
to mark 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Khojaly genocide  
(February 27, 2009)**

The Embassy of Azerbaijan in Egypt with support of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation has organized a number of ceremonies in the country`s Cairo and Alexandria cities to mark the 17th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

A public protest on the massacre held on February 25 in Alexandria brought together representatives of the Azerbaijani community in the country, “Motherland” student organization, officials of Azerbaijan`s Culture and Tourism Ministry.

The “Justice for Khojaly” campaign and its website were presented during the event. The participants were also handed over editions on the genocide prepared by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

On February 26, Azerbaijan`s Embassy in Egypt gave a press- conference on the tragedy.

Azerbaijan`s Ambassador to Egypt Faig Bagirov read out the Embassy`s statement on the 17th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

During the event, the “Justice for Khojaly” campaign and its website were presented.

The “Justice for Khojaly” international campaign was initiated by General Coordinator of the OIC Youth Foundation on Intercultural Dialogue Ms. Leyla Aliyeva.

**AzerTAc  
27 February, 2009**

**Anniversary of Khojaly genocide commemorated in Morocco  
(February 28, 2009)**

Azerbaijan`s Embassy in Morocco organized Thursday a ceremony to commemorate the 17th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide. Members of the Morocco-Azerbaijan Friendship Society and Morocco-Azerbaijan Inter-parliamentary Friendship Group, journalists, several ambassadors and others, attended the event.

Azerbaijan`s ambassador to Morocco Sabir Agabayov briefed the participants on atrocities committed by Armenians against the Azerbaijani people.

He also spoke of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation`s efforts towards making the world community known about the Khojaly genocide.

The event`s participants saw a documentary featuring the massacre. They were also handed over books on the tragedy prepared by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

A statement on the 17th anniversary of the genocide prepared by the Embassy was forwarded to Morocco`s Foreign Ministry, parliament, all embassies accredited to the country, as well as media outlets.

**AzerTAc  
28 February 2009**

**Anniversary of Khojaly genocide marked in European Parliament  
(March 4, 2009)**

Paris, March 4 (AzerTAc). An event to mark the 17th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide was held Tuesday in the European Parliament with support of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

The event brought together members of the European Parliament, representatives of diplomatic corps accredited to the EU, members of Azerbaijan`s Diaspora organizations and journalists.

First, the event`s participants viewed a photo exhibition on the massacre.

Azerbaijan`s permanent representative to the European Union Emin Eyyubov told of the Khojaly tragedy.

Other speakers at the event were member of the European parliament Jisel Kalenbakh and Senior Fellow of the U.S.-based Jamestown Foundation Vladimir Socor.

The participants were also informed of the international awareness campaign “Justice for Khojaly” initiated by General Coordinator of the OIC Youth Foundation on Intercultural Dialogue Ms. Leyla Aliyeva.

**AzerTAc  
04 March, 2009**

**Regional headlines (July 27, 2009)**

**Participation of both Nagorno Karabakh communities in talks crucial to achieve peace: U.S. Azeris Network**

The U.S. Azeris Network (USAN) has sent a letter to President Barack Obama concerning the Nagorno Karabakh (NK) conflict. USAN Managing Director Adil Baguirov said they aimed to put an end to the speculations of ultranationalist and radical Armenian forces in the U.S. over the Nagorno Karabakh negotiations.

“As Azerbaijani-Americans we greatly appreciate your joint declaration with the Presidents of France and Russia, your phone calls about the NK conflict with President Aliyev and President Gul, the reinvigorated work of the OSCE Minsk Group of which the U.S. is a Co-Chair and the more equitable and fair foreign assistance requests for 2010, which are in line with previous years’ requests. We urge you, Vice President Biden, Secretary Clinton and your Administration, to step up such positive efforts in the future, as well as visiting the U.S.’s strategic ally Azerbaijan to witness the challenges and effects of the occupation of 16% of Azerbaijan and the displacement of some 12% of its population by Armenia”, USAN has said in its letter.

“Our key aspiration is the liberation of all the occupied Azerbaijani lands through the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict on the basis of Azerbaijan’s territorial integrity. We believe that one of our most important objectives, as a community of people tracing their heritage to the land of Azerbaijan, is to educate our Government and lawmakers to assist in enhancement of the bilateral ties between Azerbaijan and the United States. Azerbaijani-Americans support the long-term strategic allied relations between the United States and Azerbaijan, and we fully encourage the development of bilateral cooperation between America and all Turkic nations,” the letter says. “Hence, we welcome your positive steps in resolving the NK conflict, and offer you our full support in the light of relentless criticism from ultranationalist and maximalist Armenian special interest groups, that have built their entire *raison d’etre* on creating and perpetuating only negativism, hate-mongering and intimidation.”

USAN reminds the US that it is Armenia which has been occupying Azerbaijan for almost two decades now, not the other way round, and it is Armenia that has created almost a million Azerbaijani refugees and IDPs, and according to U.S. Government, committed “crimes against humanity” in Azerbaijan, such as the largest war crime in the region, the Khojaly Massacre in 1992. “Armenia’s creation of a straw man in the form of the so-called “Nagorno Karabakh Republic (NKR)”, an entity recognised by no one, including its own creator, is especially unhelpful to the peace process and causes nothing but irritation and tensions in the region. With multiple U.S. Government statements clearly calling a spade a spade, and with the U.N. Security Council adopting four resolutions calling for the immediate withdrawal of Armenian military forces from Azerbaijan, to restore the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Azerbaijan, it should be further stressed once again, that we all fully and unequivocally support the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. No question about it, NK has to remain part of Azerbaijan. Meanwhile, we also recognise the other Helsinki Final Act principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, which are envisioned within the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

“Per equal rights and the participation of interested parties to the conflict, indeed, the engagement of Karabakh’s ethnic communities in negotiations is an absolute must for reestablishing peace in that region. In fact, the conditions for an equal engagement of all parties in the conflict were already enshrined in the “Baker Rules” proposed in 1992 by the first peacemaking mission of the CSCE Minsk Group, led by then U.S. Secretary of State, James Baker III. These rules, agreed to by all sides, recognised the two ethnic communities of the Nagorno Karabakh region of Azerbaijan as the “interested parties”, and Armenia and Azerbaijan as the “principal parties”.

“However, the radical Armenian lobby organisations stop short of mentioning the ethnic Azerbaijani community, which prior to the conflict in 1988 comprised a third of Nagorno-Karabakh’s population and 99% of the population of the seven other, surrounding and currently occupied, regions of Azerbaijan. It shall be understood that while the present conditions of Armenia’s military occupation preclude the participation of Karabakh’s ethnic Armenian community in the peace process, a lasting peace in Nagorno-Karabakh can only be achieved after the return and peaceful co-existence of both the region’s ethnic communities, the cessation of all occupation and moving away from continuous attempts to stonewall the peace process, intimidate elected officials, and preserve the status quo of continuous military occupation”, says USAN.

On Friday, the American-Azerbaijani Council also issued a statement on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. Its statements were made after the leader of the Armenian National Committee of America Kenneth

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Khachikian sent a letter to President Obama noting the necessity of involving the so-called “Nagorno Karabakh Republic” in the negotiations on conflict resolution.

**(APA ) Tbilisi, Georgia**

**The Messenger, No. 139, July 27, 2009, page(s): 5**

**Protocols evoke protests in Turkish Parliament (October 21, 2009)**

Today's session of Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) heard the report of FM Ahmet Davutoglu related to the protocols signed with Armenia.

Speakers from opposition parties, in particular, Oktay Vural (MHP) claimed that the protocols were hidden from the will of the Turkish people still during discussions. The opening of borders, he said, was stated 161 days ago at the USA Congress. In addition, later, the public and parliamentarians of Turkey were wrongly informed about it. The protocols contradict interests of the Turkic nation, he emphasized. "Is Armenia not the occupant of the Azerbaijani lands? Who has committed massacre in Khojaly?" the MP asked. He called all these the writing of "the history of surrender".

MP from CHP Shukru Alakdag, independent MP Masud Yilmaz has protested out-of-agenda discussion of the protocols in parliament. MHP supporter Kamil Sipahi called the foreign policy of the Turkish Government as incorrect. According to him, it was inadmissible to insult the flag of Azerbaijan. According to MP Ms. Shenol Bal, the shameful protocols had not to be brought to the Assembly at all. "This is disrespect to the future generations as well", she underlined.

When the floor was taken by the MP from the ruling party to hold up the protocols, the opposition party supporters left the session hall.

**AzerTAc**  
**21 October 2009**

**International conference on Khojaly massacre held at UN Geneva Office  
(December 11 2009)**

An international conference on mass violation of human rights during armed conflicts was held Thursday, with the support of the Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYFDC) at the UN Geneva Office on the occasion of the Human Rights Day.

The conference was attended by activists of the “Justice for Khojaly” international campaign initiated by ICYFDC general coordinator for inter-cultural dialogue Leyla Aliyeva.

The conference started an hour later since Armenian permanent mission to the UN Geneva Office made an attempt to cancel the event using Armenian lobby. Media reports from Armenia suggested Armenian diplomats claimed that the format of the conference does not comply with the UN rules. Taking into consideration explanations given by conference organizers and participation of esteemed guests and representatives, the conference kicked off at the UN Palace of Nations.

The conference organized by Cojep International brought together some diplomats, heads of international rights groups, and media. The participants saw a video message of UN Commissioner for Human Rights Navanethem Pillay

In his address ICYFDC Secretary General Elshad Iskandarov told of political recognition of Khojaly massacre along with tragedies in Rwanda and Srebrenica in the OIC documents and the need for cooperation between OIC and European structures on the basis of cross-cultural dialogue.

Justice for Khojaly campaign coordinator in Lithuania Eva Lukosevite made a multimedia presentation on the Karabakh war.

During the conference, Armenian diplomats tried to impede the conference.

In response to Armenian allegations, ICYFDC Secretary General Elshad Iskandarov pointed out that in an interview to British journalist Thomas de Vaal incumbent Armenian president and then, commander of Armenian armed forces in Nagorno-Karabakh confessed, “the main aim of Armenian militants in Khojaly was to break Azerbaijanis` stereotype that the Armenians are people who could not raise their hand against the civilian population”.

Leader of the Azerbaijan mission to the UN Geneva Office Elchin Amirbeyov noted Armenian diplomats many times tried to politicize human rights issue and impede such kind of events. “This campaign as a result of the active foreign policy of Azerbaijan has made official Yerevan concerned during recent years,” he said.

A special report adopted by the conference will be sent as a recommendation to the UN Offices in New York and Geneva and other international and rights organizations.

**AzerTAc  
11 December 2009**

**“Over 100,000 pages of document related to Armenian issue collected”  
(December 14, 2009)**

Azerbaijani organizations in Holland established a platform to inform World community on Khojaly genocide. Organizations also initiated a signature collecting campaign on December 10, on the day of Human Rights.

Platform opened a photo exhibition in Hague related to the massacre in Khojaly village of Azerbaijan committed by Armenians in 1992.

Head of the platform Gert Van Dam and Chairman of Holland Azerbaijan Turkish Culture Organization Ilhan Askin stated that they initiated a petition for carrying Khojaly issue on international platforms.

Van Dam said that they aim to inform Dutch people on the massacre of Khojaly and about 1 million Azerbaijani refugees that had to leave their homeland. “Imagine Dutch State Utrecht being occupied by hostile forces, and imagine 800 citizen to lose their lives in the hands of that enemy. Neither the World, nor Holland can accept such thing. But when it comes to Azerbaijan, everybody accepts the events.”

Chairman of Holland Azerbaijan Turkish Culture Organization Ilhan Askin said, “Europe cannot ignore Khojaly genocide. This year we wanted people of Holland to listen our story from someone among themselves. And we assigned Gert B. Van Dam as the chairman of the platform.” Askin said that the petition will be continued till February 26, 2010. “The signatures will be sent to Azerbaijan and then they will be presented to Court of Human Rights,” said he.

An Azerbaijani citizen paying a visit to the exhibition, Sadikova Zerhanim said, “Armenia does not open its archives for historians to study. Because they do not want their lies to come out. The history is our witness, that the ones who committed genocide were Armenians. Efforts of Russia, United States and EU towards peaceful resolution of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict does not bring anything good. One million Azerbaijani refugees still live under difficult conditions. Twenty percent of the lands of Azerbaijan is still under occupation. It seems that only solution is the war.”

**AzerTAc  
14 December 2009**

**City wiped off the face of the Earth for one night (January 14, 2010)**

Baku, 14 January (AzerTAc). The night from February 25 to 26, 1992, has been recorded in black letters in history of the Azerbaijani people. That night the Armenian armed formations with the support of military staff and armored technique of 366th motor-rifle regiment billeted in the city of Khankendi, the majority of staff of which were Armenians, have wiped the city of Khojaly off the face of earth.

As the acts of genocide in Khatyn, Lidice and Oradour, the Khojaly tragedy also became the bloody event added in history of civilization. This mass slaughter committed by the Armenian aggressors against the Azerbaijani people, has led to death of 613 people, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 old men. 487 people have been wounded, 1275 civilians were taken as hostages, and 150 people are missing up to know.

The evil deeds committed in Khojaly can be compared with nothing. Because of this act of genocide, 8 families have been completely annihilated, the civilians were exterminated with unprecedented cruelty, and the prisoners were subjected to ruthless tortures.

In due time, the world press have written much about the Khojaly tragedy.

“The Sunday Times” (London), March 1, 1992: “The Armenian soldiers have annihilated thousand families”.

Newspaper “The Times” (London), on March 4, 1992: “Many corpses have been disfigured, and of the corpse of a little girl there remained only her head”.

“Izvestiya” (Moscow), March 4, 1992: “The camera has demonstrated corpses of children with the cut off ears. The half of the face of a woman has been cut off. Men’s corpses were scalped”.

The newspaper “Financial Times” (London), March 14, 1992: “General Polyakov has informed that 103 servicemen of the Armenian nationality of 366th regiment remained in Nagorno Karabakh”.

The newspaper “Le Monde” (Paris): March 14, 1992: “The foreign journalists, who were in Agdam, saw among corpses of the women and children killed in Khojaly, corpses of three persons who were scalped and whose nails were pulled out. It is not propagation of Azerbaijanis, but the truth.”

“Izvestiya” (Moscow), March 13, 1992: “Major Leonid Kravets: I personally saw on a hill about hundred corpses. The corpse of a boy did not have a head. Everywhere were seen corpses of women, children and the old men, killed with special cruelty.”

R. Patrick, journalist of English TV Company “Fant Men News” (he was on the scene): “In the eyes of world community, it is impossible to justify the evil deeds in Khojaly.”

The Lebanese cameraman has confirmed that the well-off Dashnak community of his country sends to Karabakh weapon and people.

According to the Russian human rights center “Memorial”, during four days 200 corpses of the Azerbaijanis killed in Khojaly were taken to Agdam, and was established the fact that tens corpses have undergone to abuse. In Agdam, the forensic medical examination of 181 corpses (130 men and 51 women, including 13 children) has been carried out. During examination it has been established that the cause of death of 151 people was bullet wounds, and of 20 people – missile wounds, 10 people have been killed with a blow on the head. The Center has also fixed the fact of scalping of the live person.

Magazine “Newsweek” (USA), March 16, 1992: “Last week Azerbaijan has again turned to a cemetery: there were a lot of refugees and disfigured corpses behind a mosque. They were simple Azerbaijani men, women and children from small settlement Khojaly in Nagorno Karabakh, taken by the Armenian military men on February 25-26. Many have been killed at attempt of flight by a shot at a distance, the corpses have been severely disfigured, and others were scalped. Members of the families of victims cried and mourned.”

The photographer of the “Reuters” Agency Frederic Lengein: “In the first lorry I have counted 35 corpses, and in the second corpses was even more. Heads of some corpses were cut off, and many were partially burned...”

“The Sunday Times” (London), March 1, 1992: “Thomas Goltz: The survived Azerbaijanis tell that the Armenian soldiers have shot or bayoneted more than 450 Azerbaijanis. Majority of them were women and children. Hundreds and even thousand people were missing or were lost. Last night 579 corpses have been brought to the Agdam mortuary. 29 corpses have been buried on a cemetery. Among seven corpses I saw corpses of two children and three women.

On one of the corpses there was a bullet wound in the breast, received from short distance. In Agdam hospital, there was a monstrous picture. Doctors have informed that the majority of 140 patients who have escaped from slaughter received missile wounds ...”

“The Sunday Times” (London), March 8, 1992: “Thomas Goltz: Last week this district has disappeared from the map. Terrible news came to Agdam, the front-city of Azerbaijan, and mortuaries were overflowed with corpses... I was last western person who has visited Karabakh. It was January, and the people foresaw their bitter destiny. Defenders of Azerbaijan perished one after another. The survived said that the Armenian forces have started a ruthless massacre, shot on everything that moved. Some expressed their anger to foreigners. Mothers groaned: “Where is my daughter, where is my son? Raped... Cut off... Missing...”

The newspaper “Times” (London), March 2, 1992: “Anatoly Liven: Having landed on the hills of Nagorno Karabakh, covered with snow, we saw corpses everywhere. Distinctly it was seen that people have been shot, trying to seek safety in flight ...”

The newspaper “Times” (London), March 3, 1992: “Anatoly Liven: Scattered on the hills of Nagorno Karabakh more than 60 corpses of women and children confirm the information on annihilation by the Armenian armies of the peaceful Azerbaijani population. Hundreds people were missing. The corpses of the Azerbaijani refugees scattered along hills and small plain, prove the slaughter committed by the Armenian militants past Wednesday ...” The “Channel 4 News” (Great Britain), March 2, 1992: “Two French journalists saw 32 corpses of men, women and children in civil clothes. The majority of these people were killed by shots in the head from short distance”.

The newspaper “Boston Sunday Globe” (USA), January 21, 1993: “Employee of Globe John Auerbach: “Intimidated children in camp of the refugees, the trucks overflowed with groaning mothers, hundreds of people who have turned pale for fear, thousand Azerbaijanis seek answer to a question: what for they search here for a refuge? What we saw was the result of regular destruction of each village on their way. What we saw was the event arousing outrage and hatred ...”

The newspaper “Age”, Melbourne (Australia), March 6, 1992: “Helen Vomak: Exact number of victims is not known, however, there are no doubts that past week in snowy mountains of Nagorno Karabakh the civilians of the Azerbaijan village Khojaly have been exterminated by the Armenian troops. The Khojaly refugees in the Azerbaijan city Agdam in detail tell about how Armenians have attacked their houses on February 25, tracked down and killed those who ran and hid in wood. Having arrived on Tuesday in Agdam, we have seen newly dug-out 75 graves and four disfigured corpses in a mosque ...”

“The Washington Post” (USA), February 28, 1992: “Refugees say that during attack of Armenians, hundreds people were lost. Today were found 7 corpses, including corpses of two children and three women, one of these people was killed by a shot in breast at short distance. 120 refugees with severe wounds are in Agdam hospital”.

“The Washington Times” (USA), March 2, 1992: “During an attack, by the Armenians have been killed or were missing hundreds Azerbaijanis. About 1000 inhabitants of Khojaly have been exterminated on Tuesday by the Armenian troops. Azerbaijan TV has demonstrated the trucks overflowed with corpses from Khojaly territory”.

“The Independent” (London), February 29, 1992: “Helen Vomak:” Elif Kaban of Reuters in Agdam informs that after yesterday’s massacre of civilians, Azerbaijanis bury the people who were lost during attack of Armenians on the city of Khojaly. “The world shuts eyes to the happenings here. We are killed, and you simply observe”, one of people shouted at group of journalists”.

The newspaper “Nie” (Bulgaria), Violetta Parvanova: “Khojaly – tragedy of humanity”.

“BBC Morning News”, March 3, 1992, “Our correspondent who has visited the scene has informed that he has seen more than 100 corpses of Azerbaijanis – men, women and children who have been killed by shots in the head at short distance”.

Eyewitness of Khojaly tragedy and resettled later in capital of Lebanon, Beirut, the Armenian journalist Daud Kheirian in the book titled “In the Name of Cross” writes (page: 62-63): “... having burnt the corpses, the group of Armenians on March 2 has collected and took corpses of 100 Azerbaijanis to the west from Khojaly. Among the corpses brought in last truck, I have seen a girl of 10 years. She was wounded in the head and hands. Her face has turned blue. Despite cold, hunger and wounds, she was still live. She very difficultly breathed. Her eyes were filled with fear of death. During this moment, Tigran, an Armenian militant, took the girl and threw on corpses. Then, they have set fire on all corpses. It seemed to me that among burning corpses someone was shouting. I could not do anything. Then, I have arrived in Shusha. In addition, they have continued the war “for the sake of cross”.

The documents contain testimonies of witnesses of the Khojaly genocide.

Heydarov Jamal: “In two kilometers from a farm near Garagaya area there was a significant amount of the disfigured corpses of Azerbaijanis. The killed children’s breast has been ripped up, and hearts were pulled out, the majority of corpses were chopped up on pieces”.

Heydarov Shahin saw near the village Nakhchivanik (Khojaly) about 80 corpses that were in terrifying condition and the heads have been chopped off. Among the killed there was also major of militia Alif Hajiyev, his close relative Fakhraddin and Mikail Salimov.

Humbatov Jalil. On his eyes Armenians have shot his wife Firuza, his son son Mugan, his daughter Simuzar and daughter-in-law Sudaba.

Pashayeva Kubra, having entered into Ketik wood, she has appeared in encirclement of Armenians. When she hid in a bush, she saw execution of her husband Pashaev Shura and her son Pashaev Elshad.

Amirova Khazangul. During capture of Khojaly, the Armenian insurgents took all her family as hostages. Armenians have shot her mother Raya, her 7-year-old sister Yegana and aunt Geyche, have poured gasoline and burnt her father Amirov Tevekkul.

Aliyeva Zoya with 150 people within three days was in wood. In wood, Ahmedova Dunya and her sister Gulkhar have frozen in her eyes.

Mustafayeva Kubra: "As soon as Armenians took us as hostages, they fired at us - me and six other people."

Kerimova Saida: "We have been taken hostage together with 12 people. Armenians have subjected to tortures and killed my daughter Nazaket, as well as Tapdig, Saadat and Irada".

Najafov Ali: "Armenians surrounded the escaping people and shot 30-40 persons".

Since 1994, on the initiative of the national leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev, the government and parliament of Azerbaijan carried out consecutive measures to inform the world states and international community all scale and horror of the crimes committed by the Armenian nationalists against Azerbaijanis, including the truth on the Khojaly genocide, to achieve their recognition as genocide. Now, this work is continued by President Ilham Aliyev.

Special role in distribution to the countries of the world of numerous booklets and the video data narrating on the truth about Khojaly, belongs to the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan has declared February 26 as the "Day of Khojaly genocide". This day all Azerbaijan honors memory of the victims of tragedy.

Peaceful people of the planet, the civilized states, the influential international organizations and world community should know this bitter truth committed against humanity and should give legal assessment.

According to international law, the genocide is the act committed against the world and civilization, and is considered the heaviest international crime. The Convention on prevention and punishment of the culprit of the crime of genocide, the Resolution of UN General Assembly # 260 (III) dated December 9, 1948, which came into effect in 1961, contain legal characteristics of the crime of genocide. During aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan, all the above-noted actions making the crime of genocide took place. The policy of terrorism carried out by this aggressive country throughout many years, occurs in the face of world community. However, according to the norms of international law, principles of the United Nations and OSCE, it is necessary to respect inviolability of borders of the states, and is inadmissible violation of their territorial integrity and sovereignty.

The United Nations Security Council has accepted four resolutions on unconditional liberation of the occupied lands of Azerbaijan, but aggressive Armenia still ignores them.

Today, the inhabitants of Khojaly ousted from their homelands address the people and world states, the international organizations to support truth and justice, and condemn the genocide committed in Khojaly.

Culprits of the Khojaly genocide, which is one of the bloodiest tragedies of the XX century, should incur the deserved punishment. History forgets nothing.

**Khalid Mammadov**  
**AzerTAj Correspondent**

**January 14, 2010**

**Azerbaijani youth organization announces February as month of Khojaly  
(January 26, 2010)**

The child and youth organization of Young Leaders has declared February 2010 as the Month of Khojaly.

According to Farid Shahbazov, chairman of the aforementioned organization, in February the local and the world communities will be informed about the terrible tragedy in the history of Azerbaijani people that occurred in Khojaly on the night of February 26 in 1992.

According to Shahbazov, thematic round tables, measures and meetings will be conducted in this connection and literature and manuals will be distributed among country's schools and high schools.

Moreover, there is a plan to hold an event in February during which the information leaflets about Khojaly tragedy will be sent to the e-mails of international companies and organizations.

Khojaly located 14 kilometers northeast of Khankendi.

Before the bloody tragedy of 1992, the population of Khankendi made 7,000 people.

Most Azerbaijanis driven away from Armenia in period of well-known events and Meskhetian Turks who were forced to flee their homes in Fergana in 1989 also settled in this region of Azerbaijan.

On the night of February 26, 1992, Armenian armed forces supported by 366-rifle division of the former USSR dislocated in Khankendi invaded the armless and helpless city. First the city was surrounded from four sides by the Armenian armed forces. After this, Khojaly was cruelly fired at with artillery and heavy military technique. In a short, the city was set on fire. The city defenders and local residents were obliged to leave their homeland. The Armenian aggressors occupied at about 5.00 am on February 26 the city.

Ancient Khojaly was razed to the ground in just a night.

**www.1news.az  
January 26, 2010**

**Victims of Khojaly tragedy commemorated in Indonesia  
(February 4, 2010)**

Baku, 4 February (AzerTAc). The 18th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy was marked at Bina Nusantara University of Jakarta, Azerbaijan`s embassy to Indonesia and Philippines reported.

Embassy officials gave detailed information about the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The dispute affected the entire Caucasus region and became one of the bloodiest ethnic conflicts, claiming 25,000 Azerbaijani lives and creating one million refugees, which represents about 14 percent of the country`s entire population and it is the highest percentage of any national population in the world living as refugees and displaced persons.

On 25-26 of February 1992 Armenian Army captured Azeri town of Khojaly in northern Karabagh. Over 800 civilians were butchered in cold blood. Late on February 25, the city was under the intensive fire from the town Khankendi and Askeran. The airport and neighboring houses were destroyed. More than 150 people defending the airport were killed by sporadic artillery shelling of regiment No 366. The next day, on February 26 the fire shooting grew heavier and fiercer. After powerful artillery, shelling Armenian bandits launched a massive attack. Armoured vehicles of Soviet Army regiment No 366 were in the first row of the attackers. Armenian armed bandit units followed them. The Armenian armed men backed by armoured vehicles killed the defenders of the districts and houses. The most valuable property and personal possessions were loaded onto the trucks and taken away towards the town of Khankendi.

Occupation of Khojaly was followed with unprecedented brutalities against the civilian population. In a few hours the aggressors killed 613 innocent and unarmed people. Among them were 106 women, 83 children, 56 people were killed with special brutality, 8 families were totally exterminated, 25 children were totally, and 130 children were partly orphaned, 476 people became disabled persons (of them 76 were minors), 1275 people were taken hostage and even though afterwards most of the hostages were released from captivity, the fate of 150 of them are still unknown.

The embassy officials also talked about the International Campaign of Justice to Khojaly initiated by Leyla Aliyeva, general coordinator of the Intercultural Dialogue of the OIC Youth Forum for dialogue and cooperation.

**AzerTAj  
February 4, 2010**

**Panic in Armenian ruling circles - Azerbaijani MP (February 9, 2010)**

**The Armenian president and defence minister are visiting Europe to show Russia their displeasure at its latest moves on the Karabakh conflict.**

This is what MP Aydin Mirzazade, a member of the board of the ruling New Azerbaijan Party, said in an interview yesterday with 1news.az.

"Of course, there's a reason why Sargsyan flew to Great Britain and Ohanyan to France on the same day. I think the Armenian leadership wants to show Russia that it is offended, since Russia is taking a more realistic position on the Karabakh conflict and processes in the South Caucasus," the MP said.

"It is clear that neither Britain nor France would be able to provide substantial support to the Armenian regime. The fact that Sargsyan and Ohanyan are going to Europe is not only a show for Russia's benefit, but is designed for the domestic Armenian audience to show that Armenia has an alternative to Russia's support. One can sense a degree of panic in the ruling circles of Armenia that the time has come to return the occupied lands of Azerbaijan," Mirzazade said.

"Yerevan has realized that none of the world's leading powers will sacrifice their national interests for the sake of tiny Armenia. It is time for real politics, in which the interests of major powers are a long way from the nationalistic plans of Armenia - an isolated country which has no economic attraction or prospects," the MP said.

President Serzh Sargsyan makes it clear that Defence Minister Seyran Ohanyan is the second person in the ruling hierarchy, according to Mirzazade.

"This fact shows that history is repeating itself and the chain [former President] Kocharyan-Sargsyan-Ohanyan has been formed. They are all complicit in the genocide in the Azerbaijani village of Khojaly. The ruling elite of Armenia is associated with the blood of the innocent civilians of Khojaly," Mirzazade said.

**www.1news.az  
February 9, 2010**

**Heydar Aliyev Foundation published “the Karabakh Realities” collection in Japanese  
(February 19, 2010)**

The Heydar Aliyev Foundation on the threshold of the anniversary of bloody tragedy in the history of Azerbaijan, the Khojaly genocide, has published “The Karabakh Realities” collection in the Japanese language.

As stated, the Collection comprises five booklets each of which narrates on different aspects of the Karabakh truths - the history of Karabakh, the beginning of the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and its consequences, the Khojaly tragedy, which for ever remains in memory of the Azerbaijani people, the acts of terrorism committed by Armenians worldwide.

Release of the Collection can play important role in opening for Azerbaijan a new information space in the developed Japan with a population of 130 million.

The Collection is said to be distributed in the state structures, authoritative organizations, mass-media, libraries, in educational institutions of Japan.

The Foundation attaches great importance to bring the truth about Azerbaijan to world community and since 2005 publishes “The Karabakh Realities” in various languages. The booklets in the Azerbaijani, Russian, English, German and Hungarian languages were distributed in many countries of the world during various actions. Similar actions became ideological transmission media of realities about Azerbaijan.

The booklets contain numerous photographic materials.

During actions of commemoration devoted to memory of the victims of Khojaly genocide “The Karabakh Realities” will be presented in many countries of the world.

**AzerTAc  
February 19, 2010**

**German parliamentary secretary sends petition to Bundestag on Khojaly massacre  
(February 20, 2010)**

Eduard Lintner, German parliamentary secretary, former chairman of the PACE Monitoring Committee and chairman of Germany-Azerbaijan Society, has sent a petition to Bundestag entitled “Massacres and murder of Azerbaijanis in Khojaly and destiny of more than a million of refugees and IDPs during the 1992-1993 war between Armenia and Azerbaijan”.

The goal of the petition is to inform German and European publics about the genocide of Azerbaijanis as a result of the Armenian aggression in 1992 and the fact of occupation of Azerbaijan`s territories by Armenian armed forces.

On 26 February 1992, Armenian armed forces invaded Azerbaijan`s town of Khojaly, where they brutally killed 613 people, including 106 women and 83 children.

Lintner called Bundestag to “unconditionally recognize the fact of horrible crimes against humanity perpetrated by Armenians”.

The petition condemns occupation of 20 percent of Azeri lands by Armenia, urging it to put an end to this aggression on the basis of international law.

“Armenia must first release five, then two regions of Azerbaijan, and also must not hamper the return of the Azerbaijani refugees to their historical land, the Nagorno- Karabakh.”

**AzerTAc  
February 20, 2010**

**Azerbaijan's embassy in Jordan releases statement on Khojaly genocide  
(February 22, 2010)**

Azerbaijani embassy in Jordan has issued a statement over the 18th anniversary of Khojaly genocide, killing of hundreds of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians from the town of Khojaly on 25-26 February 1992.

The statement was sent to Jordan's Foreign Ministry and a number of governmental agencies as well as accredited embassies here. It was posted on the embassy's official website and published by the local press.

An article on the Khojaly massacre by Jordan's leading journalist Marvan Sudah was published in the Al Rai and Shihan newspapers

Ambassador Elman Arasly and employees of the embassy met Jordan officials, foreign diplomats to brief them about the massacre, aims of the separatist regime in Nagorno-Karabakh and history of the conflict. In particular, Arasly met with chairman of the Jordan's Senate, secretary general of Foreign Ministry, head of the Jordan television as well as some scientists.

Moreover, books and booklets were distributed on February 15 at an event co-organized by the embassy and Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

The photo exhibition to remember Khojaly victims will be arranged by the embassy on February 26.

**AzerTAc  
February 22, 2010**

**Khojaly tragedy`s anniversary commemorated in Qatar  
(February 23, 2010)**

Azerbaijan`s embassy in Qatar together with the State Commission for Prisoners, Missing People and Hostages have organized an event to commemorate the 18th anniversary of the Khojaly massacre.

The event was attended by members of the Azerbaijani community, ambassadors and journalists.

Opening the event, Ambassador Eldar Salimov briefed the participants on the ethnic cleansing policy carried out by Armenia against Azerbaijanis.

He noted Armenian aggressors committed unprecedented savageries in Khojaly and other regions of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Official of the Commission Shahin Sailov condemned the massacre and called on the world community to recognize the events happened in Khojaly as a crime of genocide against humanity.

The event participants saw a documentary on the Khojaly tragedy.

They were also handed over books featuring the Armenian terror acts committed against the Azerbaijani people.

**AzerTAc  
February 23, 2010**

**Memory of Khojaly tragedy`s victims honored in Tashkent  
(February 23, 2010)**

Association of Azerbaijani Culture Centers in Uzbekistan has organized an event to honor the memory of the Khojaly tragedy`s victims.

The event brought together members of the Azerbaijani Diaspora, students and journalists.

Chairman of the Association Akif Agatalibov said the act of brutality committed by the Armenian aggressors in Khojaly should be compared with the tragedies of Khatin and Songmi.

Agatalibov also spoke of the Justice for Khojaly campaign initiated by General Coordinator of the OIC Youth Foundation on Intercultural Dialogue Ms. Leyla Aliyeva. He said the campaign aims to raise the world community`s awareness of the massacre.

The event participants also saw a documentary featuring the tragedy.

**AzerTAc  
February 23, 2010**

**Khojaly genocide`s anniversary marked in Tbilisi  
(February 23, 2010)**

A commemorative event to mark the 18th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide was arranged here by the Azerbaijan Cultural Museum.

Director of the Museum Leyla Aliyeva briefed the participants on the genocide describing it the most terrible tragedy in the 20th century.

Head of the Union of Georgian Azerbaijanis Suleyman Suleymanov said 613 civilians including 83 children were brutally killed during the Khojaly massacre, and the town itself was levelled to the ground.

He stressed only national leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev gave political and legal assessment to the tragedy.

Suleymanov also pointed out the Georgian Azerbaijanis support the Justice for Khojaly campaign initiated by General Coordinator of the OIC Youth Foundation on Intercultural Dialogue Ms. Leyla Aliyeva.

**AzerTAc  
February 23, 2010**

**Radio broadcast features Khojaly genocide in France  
(February 23, 2010)**

A French language radio program totally dedicated to the 18th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide was broadcast here Monday with the support of the Strasbourg-based Azerbaijan House.

The program narrated on the conferences dealing with the Khojaly massacre held at the University of Strasbourg, mass rally in the Kleber square here and a meeting at the Azerbaijan House.

The appeal to the world community was also broadcast during the program as part of the Justice for Khojaly campaign initiated by general coordinator of the Islamic Conference Youth Forum Leyla Aliyeva.

The broadcast also told about the political developments, cultural events in Azerbaijan.

Khojaly genocide was the killing of hundreds of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians by Armenians in the town of Khojaly on 25-26 February 1992 during the Nagorno-Karabakh War.

**AzerTAc  
February 23, 2010**

**Kuwait commemorates Khojaly victims  
(February 23, 2010)**

Kuwait commemorated the victims of the Khojali tragedy on the eve the genocide's eighteenth anniversary.

The event, organized by the Azerbaijani Embassy in Kuwait, was held in the prestigious Sheraton Hotel in Kuwait City.

Armenian troops committed genocide using military hardware and personnel of the 366th infantry regiment of the former USSR in Khojali on Feb. 26, 1992, Azerbaijani Ambassador to Kuwait Shahin Abdullayev said at the opening of the event. Because of massed fire from artillery piece, heavy military equipment, the whole city was in flames, he reminded.

Abdullayev spoke about the tragedy that resulted in the deaths of 600 people. Hundreds of others went missing. Azerbaijan hopes that the international community will recognize these atrocities as genocide against the Azerbaijani people, Abdullayev said.

He also stressed the important role that commemorative events play in delivering objective, unbiased information about Khojaly to the world.

He also emphasized that today the Azerbaijani government is doing its utmost to resolve the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. Azerbaijan, as a sovereign state, is ready to use all routes of diplomacy to settle this problem, Abdullayev said. He added that Azerbaijan hopes big powers wielding influence in the region will resolve these conflicts according to international law.

A film about the Armenian terrorism committed over many years against the Azerbaijani people was screened at the event. The State Commission on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons, prepared the film.

Azerbaijan should inform the world on all the falsity of Armenian claims, to tell the world about the barbarism committed in Karabakh, Secretary of State Commission on POWs, Hostages and Missing Persons, Shahin Sayilov said at the commemoration evening.

"The film is not easy to watch, because what you see on the screen is the result of Armenian terror. It is prepared based on archival materials of the Azerbaijani Ministry of National Security. Demonstrating you this movie, we don't try to create an atmosphere of hate against Armenians, but just want you to know all the truth and realize what Azerbaijani people suffered," Sayilov said.

The representatives of the Azerbaijani diaspora attended the event, and ambassadors and representatives of foreign diplomatic missions accredited in Kuwait.

Photos, brochures and a documentary film describing the bloody events that took place on Feb. 26, 1992 were also distributed.

Armenian troops committed genocide in Khojali on Feb. 26, 1992. The tragedy began early morning. Within hours, over 613 unarmed Azerbaijani citizens were killed. Among them were 106 women and 83 children. About 1,000 people were disabled by shots; 8 families were fully destroyed. 25 children lost both of their parents and 130 children lost one of them. About 1,275 people were taken prisoner and around 150 people went missing. Eight families were completely killed.

**Trend News  
February 23, 2010**

**Letter sent to UN Secretary General on Khojaly genocide  
(February 23, 2010)**

Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the UN Agshin Mehdiyev wrote a letter to the Secretary General of the Organization in connection with Khojaly genocide, the Foreign Ministry of Azerbaijan reported.

In February 1992, an unprecedented massacre was committed against the Azerbaijani population in the town of Khojaly, the letter says. This bloody tragedy, which became known as the Khojaly genocide, involved the extermination or capture of thousands of Azerbaijanis: the town was razed to the ground.

The ongoing-armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan has resulted in the occupation of almost one-fifth of the territory of Azerbaijan and made approximately one out of every eighth persons in the country internally displaced or a refugee. The most serious international offences, such as war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, were committed in the course of the conflict, the letter says.

The genocide in Khojaly, along with other grave offences committed during the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, entail the State responsibility of Armenia and the individual criminal responsibility of those who participated in said acts and their accomplices and accessories, the letter says. There can be no long-term and sustainable peace without justice. This requires consistent commitment by States towards their obligations to prosecute those responsible for breaches of international humanitarian law or international human rights law.

**Trend News  
February 23, 2010**

**38 persons declared to be under international search due to occupation of Azerbaijani city of Khojaly  
(February 23, 2010)**

38 persons were declared to be under international search through Interpol in connection with the occupation of the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly.

Participation of the 38 persons in the Khojaly genocide was fully proved and it was decided to make them criminally responsible under articles 103 envisaging liability for genocide and war crimes against peace and humanity, 107 (deportation or expelling of population), 113 (torture), 115.4 (violation of the laws or customs of war), 116.0.17 (committing other acts of rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced sterilization and sexual violence), the press service of the Military Prosecutor's Office of the Republic told Trend News.

The trial started over a criminal case related to the Khojaly tragedy was suspended March 31, 1994. Legal proceedings on this criminal case was reopened July 12, 2005 by the Military Prosecutor's Office of Azerbaijan and the actions in this criminal case were classified under articles 103 (genocide), 107 (deportation or expelling), 115.2 (violation of the laws or customs of war) and other articles of the Criminal Code. Since then, investigations have been started to make criminally responsible those who committed crimes against peace and humanity.

As a result of the external examination of dead bodies, the testimonies of Khojaly residents who were able to escape from encirclement, were found evidences of unimaginable torture and atrocities committed by the Armenians and the 366th motorized infantry battalion against the Azerbaijanis: removal of the scalp, cutting off noses, ears, genitals, puncturing eyes, cutting off the heads of Azerbaijanis in the Armenian cemetery as sacrifices, acts of torture against children, women and the elderly.

During the investigation in connection with Khojaly genocide, 2,213 people were questioned as witnesses and victims, over 800 examinations were conducted.

**Trend News  
February 23, 2010**

**Scientific seminar "Memory of Khojaly" conducted in Astana  
(February 23, 2010)**

On Feb. 23, a scientific workshop "Memory of Khojaly" was conducted in Astana. Event was organized by the Azerbaijani embassy in Kazakhstan and the Association of Friendship and Culture "Kazakhstan-Azerbaijan".

Azerbaijani ambassador Latif Gandilov opened the seminar with a report on the Khojaly genocide. He told the audience the story of this tragedy, which happened 18 years ago, spoke about the facts of cruelty and violence, backing up his words with photo and video materials.

"We remember that in the beginning of the conflict, one of those who first came to Azerbaijan to resolve the conflict was the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev. We hope that the recent visit of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Kanat Saudabayev to the South Caucasus will make a contribution in resolving the conflict peacefully," said the ambassador.

During the seminar, a report was also delivered by the candidate of historical sciences, a member of the Association of Writers of Azerbaijan, a member of the Society "Women of Turkey and Azerbaijan" Sevil Priyeva.

The chairman of the Association of Friendship and Culture "Kazakhstan-Azerbaijan", professor, doctor of technical sciences Akhat Shakirov also addressed the seminar.

Upon the completion of the event, the participants - diplomats of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey, students and university teachers, as well as representatives of the Azerbaijani diaspora, journalists paid a moment of silence to the victims of this bloody tragedy.

**Trend News  
February 23, 2010**

**US Azeris call on Obama administration to recognize Khojaly genocide  
(February 23, 2010)**

US Azeris Network (USAN) has sent 1211 letters in last two weeks to US President Barack Obama, vice president Joe Biden, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, as well as US Administration officials, congressmen and senators calling on them to recognize the Khojaly genocide.

In the letters, USAN raises the US officials' awareness of consequences of Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan, including the Khojaly genocide.

The Network also calls on the US officials to include the issue in agenda of Congress hearings and also make pressure on the Armenian government in order to force it to withdraw its military from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

In the letters, USAN invites US congressmen to attend ceremonies to be held in the United States on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

In last two weeks, Turkish and Azerbaijani Diasporas have sent 2436 letters to the US Government on the issue.

**AzerTAc  
February 23, 2010**

**Azerbaijani ambassador to Belarus visits Academy of Public management  
(February 24, 2010)**

Azerbaijani Ambassador to Belarus Ali Nagiyev met with rector of Academy of Public Administration under President of Belarus Anatoly Morozevich.

Cooperation in the humanitarian section, relations between the two countries` teaching staffs was discussed during the meeting.

Rector Morozevich offered Mr. Nagiyev to deliver lectures on history and culture of Azerbaijan for students and teaching staff of the Academy.

Mr. Nagiyev told of Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict over Nagorno Karabakh and the most terrible tragedy of the 20th century - Khojaly Genocide committed by Armenians eighteen years ago.

Azeri Ambassador presented Heydar Aliyev Foundation-related books and e-publications to the Academy`s library.

**AzerTAc  
February 24, 2010**

**Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to United Nations  
sent a letter to Secretary General of the organization  
(February 24, 2010)**

Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Agshin Mehdiyev sent a letter to Secretary General of the organization Ban Ki-moon. The letter runs: “As a result of continued confrontation between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the fifth part of the Azerbaijan territory was occupied, and by the estimations, one of each eight Azerbaijanis became an internally displaced person, or refugee. During this conflict, the enemy has committed heaviest international crimes, such as war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide”.

The Permanent Representative further writes: “In February 1992, the Azerbaijani townsmen of Khojaly were subjected to unprecedented cruelty. During this massacre, which became known as the Khojaly genocide, thousand Azerbaijanis have been killed or taken prisoner, the city has been wiped out. In the night from 25 to 26 February 1992, the Armenian armed forces with assistance of 366th motor-rifle regiment of the former USSR, staff of which consisted mainly of Armenians, have attacked to Khojaly. Inhabitants of Khojaly, who remained in the city on this tragic night, have tried to leave the houses after the beginning of storm of city, hoping to go to the near areas inhabited by Azerbaijanis. However, it was not possible. Aggressors have destroyed Khojaly and with special cruelty have killed its peaceful population. As a result, 613 inhabitants have been killed, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 old. 1000 people have been wounded and 1275 were taken hostages. Destiny of 150 inhabitants of Khojaly is not known up to now.

Law enforcement bodies of Azerbaijan have sufficient information on the happenings, and besides, documents of numerous independent sources and eyewitnesses of this tragedy confirm responsibility of Armenia.

The western mass media have informed on massacre of the innocent people of Khojaly as a result of a gun-fire, and other severe acts”.

The letter further says: “The genocide in Khojaly and other grave crimes made during the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, involve the state responsibility of Armenia and the individual criminal liability of those who participated in implementation of these acts, and their helpers and accomplices.

Impunity suppression has essentially great value not only to bring to account the culprits for grave crimes, but also to ensure peace, establishment of truth, reconciliation and protection of the rights of victims.”

Ambassador Mehdiyev expresses in advance gratitude to the addressee for distribution of this letter as a document of UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council.

**AzerTAc  
February 24, 2010**

**Azerbaijani MPs to attend Khojaly genocide-related events in Strasbourg (February 24, 2010)**

Chairman of the Milli Majlis committee on regional issues Arif Rahimzadeh and MP Akram Abdullayev left for Strasbourg to join a series of events organized by the Azerbaijan House to mark the 18th anniversary of Khojaly massacre, the killing of hundreds of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians from the town of Khojaly on 25-26 February 1992 during the Nagorno-Karabakh war.

Azerbaijani MPs will attend a conference, commemorative ceremony and presentation of a book dedicated to the tragedy.

The documents on the Khojaly genocide will be distributed among participants of events.

**AzerTAc**  
**February 24, 2010**

**“List of Azerbaijani hostages in Armenia can be extended” - Secretary of State Commission  
(February 24, 2010)**

“List of Azerbaijani hostages in Armenia can be extended”, thinks Secretary of State Commission on Prisoners, Hostages and Missing citizens of Azerbaijan Shahin Sayilov.

"Today 4113 Azerbaijani citizens are registered as missing in action. Of these, in relation to 783 testimonial evidence is collected, confirming the fact of their being held hostage in the Armenian side. This list can be extended for another 80-100 people, as well as new materials on the Azerbaijani hostages in Armenia are gathered", Sayilov said to Trend News.

According to Sayilov, for several years the State Commission on Prisoners, Hostages and Missing citizens of Azerbaijan is working to bringing the realities of Azerbaijan to the world. Materials about problems of Azerbaijani citizens, who are held hostage by the Armenians, are collected by the State Commission, translated into French, English and Arabic languages and sent to all international institutions on protection the rights of citizens.

The materials describe in detail acts of violence and cruelty created by Armenians against Azerbaijani hostages.

According to the Secretary of State Commission, law enforcement bodies of Azerbaijan gathered enough material to bring the Armenians, involved in these crimes. "I have already collected the materials for 286 Armenians, who are accused of ill-treatment in relation to the Azerbaijani hostages. All they are in the international wanted list. Of these, 31 are involved in Khojaly events. All materials on the cases forwarded to international institutions on protection of human rights and we are confident that they will appear in an international court ", - said Sayilov.

Armenian troops committed genocide in Khojali on Feb. 26, 1992. The tragedy began early morning. Within hours, over 613 unarmed Azerbaijani citizens were killed. Among them were 106 women and 83 children. About 1,000 people were disabled by shots; 8 families were fully destroyed. A total of 25 children lost both of their parents and 130 children lost one of them. About 1,275 people were taken prisoner and around 150 people went missing. Eight families were completely killed.

**Trend News  
February 24, 2010**

**Victims of Khojaly genocide remembered abroad  
(February 26, 2010)**

Azerbaijan's Embassies in foreign countries organized a series of events to mark the 18th anniversary of the Khojaly Genocide.

France. Cooperation Center of Azerbaijanis and other Turkish-speaking nation jointly with "Azerbaijan House" held events in Paris and Strasbourg to commemorate the 18th anniversary of Khojaly Genocide, committed by Armenians.

Officials of Azerbaijan's Presidential Administration, MPs and NGOs participated in the event. The delegation met with Azerbaijani Ambassador to France Elchin Amirbayov and members of Azeri Diaspora to strengthen their efforts in popularizing the realities of Azerbaijan.

The books about Nagorno Karabakh conflict in French and English were presented to the Embassy.

Ukraine. Azerbaijan's Embassy to Ukraine revered memory of Khojaly victims. The event brought together Azeri diplomats, Ukrainian political figures, members of Diaspora and media outlets.

Ambassador Talat Aliyev told of history of Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict over Nagorno Karabakh and brutalities committed by Armenians towards Azerbaijanis. Mr. Aliyev said national leader Heydar Aliyev gave political and legal assessment to Khojaly Genocide. According to leader's decree, March 31 was declared as Day of Azerbaijanis Genocide. Ambassador expressed his gratitude to the head of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, UNESCO and ISESCO Goodwill Ambassador Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva and general coordinator of the Islamic Conference Youth Forum Leyla Aliyeva for books and CDs regarding the realities of Karabakh.

The participants watched documentary film about Armenian vandalism.

Holland. "Irabi" Public Union held events in Rotterdam to commemorate victims of Khojaly Genocide, committed eighteen years ago by Armenians. Irabi also organized numerous events in Great Britain, France, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

Kuwait. "Kuwait Times" newspaper published statement of Azerbaijani Ambassador Shahin Abdullayev about Khojaly Genocide. The statement says about Armenia's aggression and ethnic purge towards Azerbaijan. Al-Rai and Al Qabas newspapers also published articles about photo exhibitions dedicated to Khojaly tragedy.

Saint-Petersburg. "Vechny Petersburg" paper published an article of Azerbaijani Consul General Gudsı Osmanov about Khojaly tragedy. The article says about reasons of Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict over Nagorno Karabakh and vandalism of Armenians committed against peaceful people of Khojaly town on February 26, 1992.

Turkey. Azerbaijan's Embassy to Turkey and Ankara Gazi University held a conference on the occasion of the eighteen anniversary of Khojaly Genocide. The participants watched film on Nagorno Karabakh conflict and familiarized themselves with a website [www.hocaliyadalet-tr.com](http://www.hocaliyadalet-tr.com).

Canada. Azerbaijan's Embassy to Canada held a commemorative meeting in Montreal on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of Khojaly Genocide, committed by Armenians. The participants were aware of Khojaly for justice campaign initiated by general coordinator of the Islamic Conference Youth Forum Leyla Aliyeva.

UK. A commemorative ceremony in memory of Khojaly victims took place in the House of Lords. The event brought together MPs, members of the diplomatic corps and media outlets, Azerbaijan's Embassy in London said. The participants were aware of Khojaly Genocide, committed eighteen years ago by Armenians and Khojaly for Justice Campaign.

Events to commemorate the anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy were also held in Egypt, Morocco, Indonesia, Sweden, Norway and Finland.

**AzerTAc  
February 26, 2010**

**World marks Khojaly genocide`s anniversary under aegis of Heydar Aliyev foundation  
(February 26, 2010)**

A series of commemorative events to mark the 18th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide are being held with support of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in more than 100 countries of the world.

The Foundation-prepared documentaries and photos featuring the massacre are distributed among the events` participants.

They are also handed over the Foundation-published “Karabakh Realities” collection and “War against Azerbaijan: Targeting Cultural Heritage” book.

The “Karabakh Realities” collection features the history of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, consequences of the Armenian aggression, Khojaly genocide, terrorist acts committed by Armenia against Azerbaijan.

The collection was published in Azerbaijani, Russian, English, German, Hungarian and Japanese languages.

The “War against Azerbaijan: Targeting Cultural Heritage” book deals with the acts committed by Armenians to destroy national and historic monuments of Azerbaijan.

**AzerTAc  
February 26, 2010**

**US congressmen call for Khojaly massacre remembrance  
(February 26, 2010)**

Co-chairman of the US Azerbaijan congressional caucus Bill Schuster, Solomon Ortiz and its member Michal McMahon made a statement at the Congress Thursday, calling on to remember the massacre committed in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly on the night between February 25 and 26, 1992

The lawmakers briefed their peers on the terrible details of that night, stressing Khojaly tragedy must be recognized by the international community as the outrage on humanity.

They noted the savageries committed by Armenian and Russian armed forces in Khojaly were widely covered by the world media including that in US.

The statement also says 20% of Azerbaijani lands are still under occupation notwithstanding UN`s and Council of Europe`s resolutions and decisions on unconditional withdrawal of Armenian Armed Forces from Azerbaijani territories and existence of about 1 million of refugees and displaced persons.

**AzerTAc  
February 26, 2010**

**Khojaly genocide's victims honored abroad  
(February 27, 2010)**

Azerbaijan's embassy in the United Arab Emirates has organized an event to mark the 18th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy.

Ambassador Elkhan Qahramanov briefed the participants on the history of the genocide. He said on February 26, 1992 the town of Khojaly was occupied by Armenia with help of the former USSR's 366th motor rifle regiment, and after that the aggressors committed unprecedented brutalities against the civilian population.

Official of the State Commission for Prisoners, Missing People and Hostages Shahin Sailov spoke of Armenia's aggression and ethnic cleansing policy against Azerbaijan.

\* \* \*

The anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy was marked in Sweden by distribution of brochures to diplomatic corps in the country with respect to the Armenian savageries committed against the Azerbaijanis.

\* \* \*

The Heydar Aliyev Foundation's Office in Romania and Azerbaijani Embassy co-organized an event to honor the memory of the Khojaly victims.

Ambassador Eldar Hasanov described the Khojaly events as the gravest crime in the history of Azerbaijan.

Head of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation's Office Igbal Hajiyev briefed the participants on the Justice for Khojaly campaign initiated by General Coordinator of the OIC Youth Foundation on Intercultural Dialogue Ms. Leyla Aliyeva.

\* \* \*

Azerbaijan's embassy in Pakistan has arranged an event to commemorate the anniversary of the Khojaly massacre.

The event participants saw the Justice for Khojaly video clip.

Moreover, the Pakistan Observer newspaper has published an article entitled "The Khojaly genocide".

\* \* \*

The embassy of Azerbaijan in China has arranged a commemorative event to mark the anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy.

The event brought together representatives of the Azerbaijani community and officials of foreign embassies.

Ambassador Yashar Aliyev described the Khojaly events as a crime against humanity.

\* \* \*

Latvia-based Telegraph newspaper has published an article on the Khojaly tragedy and Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by Azerbaijani ambassador Tofiq Zulfugarov.

On February 26, the embassy organized an event to honor the memory of the tragedy's victims.

\* \* \*

Azerbaijan's embassy in Turkey has arranged an event to mark anniversary of the tragedy. Azeri historian Nasiman Yagublu and Turkish ambassador in Baku Hulusi Kilic described the Khojaly events as the gravest crime in the history of Azerbaijan.

Another event to commemorate the anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy was held in Istanbul.

Consul General Sayyad Aran, Azerbaijani MPs Elman Mammadov və Aydın Mirzazade briefed the participants on the history of the tragedy.

\* \* \*

Commemorative events to honor the massacre's victims were also held in the embassies of Azerbaijan in Austria, France and Poland.

The participants of the events saw the Justice for Khojaly video clip.

\* \* \*

A conference devoted to the Justice for Khojaly international campaign was held in Denmark bringing together members of the Azerbaijani community and students.

Speakers at the event briefed the participants on the savageries committed by Armenians against Azerbaijan.

\* \* \*

Commemorative events to mark the 18th anniversary of the Khojaly massacre were held in Uzbekistan, Lithuania and Bulgaria.

The events brought together members of the Azerbaijani Diaspora organizations, journalists and local residents.

**AzerTAc**  
**February 27, 2010**

**New York-based newspaper publishes story on Khojaly genocide  
(February 27, 2010)**

An article “Khojaly genocide – one of the most terrible tragedies of the 20th century” by permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Agshin Mehdiyev has been published here in the Russian language “New Meridian” newspaper.

The article provided insight into killing of hundreds of Azerbaijanis and leveling the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly to the ground in an assault made at night from February 25 to 26 by the Armenian armed forces with active support of several units of the CIS’s 366th regiment.

The newspaper also posted photographs depicting Khojaly genocide victims.

**AzerTAc  
February 27, 2010**

**State Commission extends struggle in informing the world  
on unprecedented crimes made by Armenians against Azerbaijanis  
(March 4, 2010)**

According to the recommendation of the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev on permanent attack in information struggle in connection with the problem of Nagorno Karabakh, the state structures strengthen propaganda activities aimed at forming objective international public opinion, informing the peoples of world on tragedies, Azerbaijan faced as a result of the policy of annexation and ethnic cleanings pursued by the Republic of Armenia. Now, information struggle against the enemy is carried out in more expedient and systematic form, in coordination with the corresponding structures, to bring to the notice of the international public of the Azerbaijan realities.

The State Commission on POW, Hostages and Missing Persons finds out the compatriots from among prisoners of war and hostages and also prints books and brochures, prepares documentary video and photographic materials about the unprecedented crimes made by Armenians against Azerbaijanis, the Armenian-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and history of the problem, the facts of the policy of deportations carried out against Azerbaijanis periodically, about the tortures to which were subjected Azerbaijanis by the Armenian terrorists being in captivity. The Commission also organises their distribution in various languages in many countries of the world.

Wishing to inform the world about the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan, about the plight of more than one million Azerbaijanis who became refugees and IDPs, the acts of terrorism made by Armenians and in connection with 18th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy which is a crime against humanity, in the frame of Justice for Khojaly campaign, the State Commission together with embassies of Azerbaijan in Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates has carried out in these countries a series of actions.

Participants of actions were presented documentary films, books, pictures and other materials narrating on the Khojaly tragedy and consequences of the Armenian terrorism.

**AzerTAc  
March 4, 2010**

**“Khojaly genocide” photo-exhibition opened in Kars  
(August 10, 2010)**

“Khojaly genocide” photo-exhibition opened in Kars, Azerbaijan’s Consulate general in Kars, Turkey, said. The initiator and organizer of the exhibition is the Igdir-based Turkish circle to combat against Armenian groundless claims.

The exhibition exposing savageries of Armenians committed in Azerbaijan and Turkey will also open in Ankara, Istanbul and Van cities, head of the circle Goksel Gulbey said. At his words, the exhibition includes photo materials from the archives and reflects Khojaly massacre, books and booklets, CDs and leaflets narrating on 1915-1918 bloody events the Armenians committed in various regions of Turkey.

Participants of the opening ceremony watched a documentary dealing with the Armenian brutality against peaceful people.

Azerbaijani consulate general in Kars Aykhan Suleymanov and other consulate staff members took part at the exhibition.

**August 10, 2010**  
**[http://www.azertag.gov.az/index\\_en](http://www.azertag.gov.az/index_en)**

**“Don`t forget Khojaly” exhibition opens in Ankara  
(August 16, 2010)**

An exhibition titled “Don`t Forget Khojaly” has opened in Ankara, at Abdi Ipekci park. Igdır Society of Victims of Armenian Aggression organized the exhibition. The exposition features books, CD and DVD-s, photographs and other material reflecting Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and bloody Khojaly massacre, committed by Armenians against innocent Azeri people. Outstanding Turkish politics, diplomats, Ankara residents and guests as well as state officials visited the exhibition. According to Geksel Gulbey, Chairman of the Igdır Society of Victims of Armenian Aggression, the exhibition will be presented also in Istanbul and Van.

**August 16, 2010**  
**[http://www.azertag.gov.az/index\\_en](http://www.azertag.gov.az/index_en)**

**Azerbaijan develops law on Khojaly tragedy  
(December 28, 2010)**

Azerbaijan develops a draft law on the Khojaly tragedy. The Public Chamber created by a number of political parties and NGOs will develop the law. The issue was included in the agenda of the Public Chamber's session to be held on Saturday.

The agenda also includes issues of the acceptance of new members, organization of the Chamber's activity, the work plan for 2011, the socio-political situation and other issues.

Musavat Party, Azerbaijan National Independence Party, Popular Front Party, the Classic Popular Front Party, People's Party and others signed declaration on the establishment of the public chamber on Dec.28. The goals of the public chamber include conducting research in the strategic development of Azerbaijani society and state, preparing and submitting for discussion the projects (including bills), programs, concepts, doctrine, sending requests to government authorities, ensuring civil movement for democracy to bring together all the best representatives of the Azerbaijani society, regardless of their political affiliation.

**December 28, 2010**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/politics>**

**Abu Dhabi declaration urges to recognize Khojaly tragedy as crime  
(January 18, 2011)**

13th session of the Council of the Parliamentary Union of Islamic Conference has ended in Abu-Dhabi of Arab Emirates.

According to a statement from the head office of the OIC Youth Forum, the Parliamentary Assembly of the organization adopted an Abu Dhabi declaration containing an appeal to the member-states and a resolution in support of the international campaign of Justice for Khojaly, initiated by Leyla Aliyeva.

The delegation of the forum, headed by Secretary General Elshad Isgenderov, took part in the work of the Council over adoption of a special resolution on cooperation of two organizations of the OIC system.

Elshad Isgenderov told media representatives in his interview from Abu-Dhabi that on 18 January the council adopted the Abu Dhabi resolution urging the member-states to recognize the Khojaly tragedy as a mass crime against humanity. This was the result of adoption of the resolution, initiated by the OIC Youth Forum on Cooperation between OIC Youth Forum and OIC Parliamentary Assembly'.

Paragraph 3 of the resolution, adopted by the parliamentarians of 51 countries, reads that the organization recognizes 'the massacres against Azerbaijani civilians of Khojaly, committed by Armenian band formations' as the 'crime against humanity'. In addition, this representative interparliamentary platform urged the member-states to 'to evaluate this crim on the national level'. The resolution is part of the campaign of Justice for Khojaly, initiated by general coordinator of the OIC Youth Forum Leyla Aliyeva. The council highly appreciated Leyla Aliyeva's activity and notes it in the resolution.

While commenting on the importance of the document, the OIC Youth forum secretary general said: 'As is known, the conference of speakers of the OIC parliaments gave a principal assessment to the tragedy as the crime against humanity last year.

At that time, official Yerevan was trying to disavow it saying 'speakers are not diplomats and do not read what they sign'. In addition, the parliaments of a number of the OIC countries were subjected to pressure to refuse this position. Considering the practical nature of the Council, holding permanent consultations, its recognition by the Khojaly resolution as a crime against humanity again proves the principled position of OIC on this issue and also shifts the process of political recognition to a practice space'.

The idea of the resolution was adopted by Leyla Aliyeva during her meeting with the national coordinators of the campaign "Justice for Khojaly" and was successfully implemented in the result of the lobby group of the campaign activists with the parliaments of their countries.

**January 18, 2011  
1 news.az**

**Essay competition on Khojaly genocide starts in India  
(February 16, 2011)**

An essay competition “Khojaly – lesson for the future” has been announced across India in order to mark the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

The competition is organized by the Athena Ventures company and supported by Azerbaijani embassy to India. Indian media will cover the competition designed for students and schoolchildren. Winners of the contest will be awarded on February 26. The competition`s website ([www.khojalycontest.com](http://www.khojalycontest.com)) has already been made available. In addition, one-day seminar is scheduled to take place.

The event will present videos, photographs on the genocide and start the Justice for Kkhojaly signature gathering campaign.

**February 16, 2011**  
**[http://www.azertag.gov.az/index\\_en](http://www.azertag.gov.az/index_en)**

**Khojaly month starts in Ukraine  
(February 16, 2011)**

The actions slated in the frame of Khojaly month declared in Ukraine and initiated by the OIC Youth Forum and Ukraine`s Azerbaijanis Youth Association today started in the Nikolayevsk city. The actions are to be covered by the Ukrainian mass media.

The Khojaly events are not ordinary tragedy, but genocide. The culprits have to be punished to prevent similar massacres in the history, Chairman of the minorities Council of the Nikolayevsk city Murad Kaymurazov said.

**February 16, 2011**  
**[http://www.azertag.gov.az/index\\_en](http://www.azertag.gov.az/index_en)**

**Ukraine commemorates victims of Khojaly genocide  
(February 18, 2011)**

A ceremony and a rally to commemorate the victims of Khojaly Genocide, committed by Armenians against Azerbaijani nation took place in Ukraine's city Simferopol within the "Khojaly for Justice" campaign. Islamic Conference Youth Forum organized the events for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYFDC), Ukrainian Azerbaijani Youth Union and Crimean Azerbaijani Community. Chairman of the Crimean Azerbaijani Community Rahim Humbatov told of barbarities committed by Armenians in Khojaly 19 years ago. The booklets on Khojaly massacre were disseminated among the participants and local population. The participants also watched a documentary on the Genocide.

**February 18, 2011**  
**<http://www.azertag.gov.az>**

**'When words freeze...' taken by trend demonstrated during  
event in Donetsk dedicated to Khojaly genocide  
(February 18, 2011)**

Khojaly genocide was directed not only against Azerbaijan, it is a policy of genocide directed against the entire Turkic world. These opinions were expressed at a meeting in Donetsk organized at a joint initiative of the Youth Forum of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Union of Azerbaijani Youth in Ukraine and the Ukrainian representative office of the World Congress of Azerbaijanis.

During the event, which was attended by official representatives of the Donetsk region, the functionaries of the diasporas, journalists, local and foreign students, the head of the Ukrainian representative office of the World Congress of Azerbaijanis Mohlat Huseynov made a speech, which was based on the facts of genocide and occupation committed by the Armenians against Azerbaijan in the last two centuries. Calling Khojaly massacre as a crime against humanity, the second secretary of the Azerbaijani Embassy in Ukraine Farid Babayev said that the activities conducted under the campaign "Justice for Khojaly", play a significant role in presenting to the world community the truth about atrocities committed by the Armenians said the message of Union of Azerbaijani Youth in Ukraine.

The event participants watched the film "When words freeze" taken by the Trend International News Agency regarding the Armenian vandalism. After watching the film, not holding back the tears, the head of the committee on minorities of the Donetsk region Natalia Ustimenko, head of Arab diaspora Ehsan Rufash and other speakers called on international organizations and world community to give a legal assessment to this crime against humanity, and felt the absence of such an assessment injustice.

"If the Armenians do not give up the policy of genocide and occupation pursued against Azerbaijan, they may be trampled by the world Azerbaijanis whose patience has exhausted," said speakers at the meeting. The chairman of the Congress of Azerbaijanis in Donetsk Iqbal Mahmudov, head of the Donetsk regional organization of the Congress of Ukrainian Azerbaijanis Pirverdiyev Malik, head of Union of Azerbaijani Youth in Ukraine Anar Tahir and other young people said they were ready at any time take up arms and liberate Azerbaijani lands from the enemy.

The events conducted by the Youth Forum of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Union of Azerbaijani Youth in Ukraine as part of the campaign "Justice for Khojaly" will complete in late February with the protests in front of UN and OSCE missions in Ukraine. The film "When words freeze..." ("Sözün bitdiyi zaman") was produced by AMI TREND as part of project of the State Support for Media Development Fund under the Azerbaijani President. The storyline is devoted to paintings of historical chronology of the genocide policy carried out by Armenians against Azerbaijanis, for many years. The film tells of the atrocities committed by Armenians during the occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh - the last stage of the Armenian vandalism. The people who witnessed the atrocities committed by Armenians spoke to the film. The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb. 26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

**February 18, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh>**

**Azerbaijan`s embassy to Mexico commemorates Khojaly genocide`s victims  
(February 18, 2011)**

Azerbaijan`s Embassy to Mexico, Mexico-Azerbaijani interparliamentary friendship group held an event in this country`s congress to mark the 19th anniversary of Khojaly Genocide. Ambassador Ilgar Muxtarov updated the participants on Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, consequences of Khojaly massacre and destruction of the mosques, religious and historical monuments.

Chairperson of Mexico-Azerbaijani interparliamentary friendship group Markos Peres said he would do all the best to bring the realities of Khojaly genocide to Mexican community.

The event brought together representatives of the diplomatic corps, media outlets.

**February 18, 2011**  
**[http://www.azertag.gov.az/index\\_en](http://www.azertag.gov.az/index_en)**

**19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Khojaly genocide marked in Donetsk  
(February 18, 2011)**

An event to commemorate the victims of Khojaly massacre was held in Donetsk, Ukraine, as part of the “Khojaly Month” which was declared in Ukraine on the joint initiative of OIC Youth Forum and Ukraine`s Azerbaijanis Youth Association.

The event has brought together Donetsk officials, representatives of national communities, mass media and students.

Head of the Ukrainian office of the World Azerbaijanis Congress Mohlet Huseynov addressing the event spoke about the genocide committed by Armenians against Azerbaijan people and blamed the occupation policy of Armenia.

A documentary film about Khojaly was screened at the event.

**February 18, 2011**  
**[http://www.azertag.gov.az/index\\_en](http://www.azertag.gov.az/index_en)**

**Azeri embassy to host series of events to mark anniversary of Khojaly massacre  
(February 21, 2011)**

Azerbaijani ambassador to Jordan Elman Arasly gave a press conference on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

Arasly told of the history of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, in particular, Khojaly genocide. He said 613 people were brutally killed in the Khojaly bloodshed, hundreds are missing.

The event participants were given books, photographs, video materials and embassy`s statement.

The embassy has prepared an action plant to mark the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy in Jordan. The aim is to educate the Jordan`s government and state officials and public about the Khojaly massacre. The action plan envisages to organize Week of Khojaly in Jordan, preparation of the embassy`s special statement, distribution of editions on the massacre etc. The ambassador earlier met with Director General of the Jordan TV and Radio Corporation and gave him CDs and materials for telecasting.

The embassy officials also hold meetings with chairman of the Jordan`s senate, senators and chief mufti of Jordan.

**21 February 2011**

**[http://www.azertag.gov.az/index\\_en](http://www.azertag.gov.az/index_en)**

**TRT Baku office shots film on Khojaly genocide  
(February 21, 2011)**

TRT Baku Office made a 30-minute documentary film on Khojaly tragedy, Turkey`s Embassy to Azerbaijan said.

The presentation ceremony will be attended by Turkish ambassador to Azerbaijan Hulusi Kilic, head of Azerbaijan Presidential Administration`s department for socio-political affairs Ali Hasanov, chief of TRT Baku office Yuksal Dayarcan and other officials.

**February 21, 2011**  
**[http://www.azertag.gov.az/index\\_en](http://www.azertag.gov.az/index_en)**

**Film by Turkish journalist regarding Khojaly tragedy presented in Baku  
(February 21, 2011)**

A film by Turkish journalist regarding Khojaly tragedy was presented in Baku. The presentation of a film by Turkish journalist Cem Oguz "Refugee: history of Anar Usubov's life" was held in Baku. The event was held at the Theatre of Young Spectators, with the support of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan.

Deputy Prime Minister Ali Hasanov thanked the Turkish journalist, as well as all organizations and individuals who contributed to the film. This film will play an important role in presenting to the world the accurate information about the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, shows the cruelty and atrocities committed by the Armenians, Hasanov said. He regretted that despite numerous resolutions of almost all major international organizations, 20 percent of Azerbaijani lands are still under the Armenian occupation, more than one million refugees have not returned their home lands. "But we are on the right path, creating similar movies and bringing to the world public the whole truth," said Deputy Prime Minister.

Cem Oguz himself called in his speech two main reasons for making the film. The first reason is to call on the Armenians to look at their recent past, atrocities committed on the territory of Azerbaijan in the late eighties - early nineties of the last century. The second reason is to present to the world community the atrocities committed by Armenians in Azerbaijan," said Oguz.

The man, who was only eight years old at the time of Khojaly tragedy, talks about the vicissitudes of his destiny. The film, taken in the spirit of Western documentary, already nominated to the various international competitions. Painting has been prepared in Azerbaijani and English languages.

The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb. 26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

**February 21, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**U.S. senator: Khojaly victims ought to be remembered  
(February 22, 2011)**

The men, women, and children who died in Khojaly ought to be remembered, U.S. Senator Kent Conrad said in his letter addressed to representative of the Azerbaijani Diaspora in the U.S. Fariz Huseynli.

“Ethnic conflicts are never simple, but one thing is clear: warring factions must never be allowed to deliberately target civilians,” the letter reads. “Many Azerbaijani civilians were killed when Armenian troops attacked the Khojaly town.”

The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb. 26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

**February 22, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh>**

**Khojaly genocide victims commemorated in UAE  
(February 22, 2011)**

Azerbaijani society, functioning in the UAE, held a commemoration ceremony dedicated to the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide. Representatives of different peoples - Arabs, Turks, Europeans, and other members of the Diasporas were informed that the atrocities committed by the Armenians 19 years ago in Khojaly are a continuation of two-century gradual policy of genocide committed by the Armenians against the Azerbaijani people, the press service of the State Committee on Diaspora reported.

The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb. 26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

**February 22, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh>**

**Kazakh scientist: events like Khojaly genocide should not repeat  
(February 22, 2011)**

Peoples of the world must unite in combating terrorism in order to prevent the repetition of events like the Khojaly genocide, the President of University of Business and Technology of Kazakhstan Seidgasym Baibekov said in his speech at an event organized by the Union of Cultural Centers of Azerbaijanis of Kazakhstan and Astana cultural center of "Khazar" in connection with the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide at the University of Business and Technology of Kazakhstan, the press service of the State Committee for Diaspora reported.

According to others, so far, many turn a blind eye on the fact that Armenian criminals and the Russian military destroyed the entire population of the city only for their national identity, for the fact that the population was Azerbaijanis. They said it's time to bring perpetrators to justice titled "Karabakh tribunal".

The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb. 26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

**February 22, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh>**

**Turkish ambassador: time to inform world about true Khojaly tragedy  
(February 22, 2011)**

It is time to bring the truth about the tragedy in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly to the attention of the world, Turkish Ambassador to Azerbaijan Hulusi Kilic said at the presentation of the film, "Khojaly Genocide," on Tuesday. The film was prepared by Turkish state channel - TRT.

"Khojaly events are a tragedy not only for Azerbaijan but also Turkish people. The true facts, shown in this film, must be conveyed to the world," he said.

He said that injustice, lasting in the region for over 20 years, must be stopped.

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**February 22, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**Young representatives of Azerbaijani ruling party revere Khojaly victims  
(February 22, 2011)**

The ruling New Azerbaijan Party's Youth Association held an event titled, "Do Not Forget Khojaly," dedicated to the nineteenth anniversary of the Khojaly genocide. A film about the Khojaly tragedy was screened.

The tragedy was a crime committed not only against the Azerbaijani people, but also against all humanity, New Azerbaijan Party Deputy Chairman Ali Akhmedov said.

"Unfortunately, the world community has not properly assessed this tragedy. One of the cities of Azerbaijan was razed to the ground, more than 600 civilians were massacred, but the perpetrators of this crime are still free. They even have senior positions in the country, which is the aggressor," he said.

The executive secretary also noted that international agencies must give a fair assessment of this tragedy. "We want the perpetrators of this crime to be punished. They should be punished to prevent these crimes," he stressed.

The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb. 26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

**February 22, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh>**

**Deputy chairman of ruling party:  
International organizations still apply double standards regarding Azerbaijan  
(February 23, 2011)**

The international organizations still apply double standards regarding Azerbaijan, deputy chairman, executive secretary of the ruling New Azerbaijan Party, MP Ali Akhmedov told media.

"It becomes apparent in incorrect assessment of the Karabakh problem at the international level, and in particular the Khojaly genocide," he said.

He said that the Azerbaijani government has repeatedly expressed its claims to such attitude.

"On the other hand, I want to note that the the Azerbaijani government, various NGOs, as well as the Heydar Aliyev Foundation carry out extensive work for the Khojaly genocide to be recognized at the international level. Representatives of the diaspora in various countries worldwide operate to familiarize with the realities of this terrible tragedy. It is necessary to carry out various pickets. One must use all possible forms and means," he said.

The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb. 26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

**February 23, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh>**

**Caucasus Muslims Office head appeals  
to world leaders and international organizations regarding Khojaly genocide  
(February 23, 2011)**

The Caucasus Muslims Office head Haji Allahshukur Pashazadeh has addresses the world leaders and international organizations on the 19th anniversary of Khojaly genocide.

The Khojaly tragedy has not been denounced by the history yet, the world community has not condemned it and no political assessment has been given to this event yet, the appeal says.

"We would like to again remind to the world community that 19 years ago, on February 26, over 10,000 peaceful civilians of Khojaly were brutally attacked, hundreds of people were killed, there was no mercy even for women, elders and children, dead bodies were insulted," the appeal says.

"The indifference towards Armenia's barbarism against Azerbaijan should be assessed as inspiring terrorism. Despite UN resolutions demanding withdrawal of Armenian troops from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, Armenia doesn't intend to give up its aggressive policy. In accordance with the UN resolutions, the principles and rules of law, the international community must put an end to this illegal situation and force Armenia to respect the commitments it undertook to international organizations. Encouraged by its impunity, Armenia is constantly trying to break the ceasefire, demonstrates an unconstructive position in peace negotiations," says the appeal.

Pashazade urged the world religious leaders and international organizations to contribute to a fair solution of the Karabakh conflict.

The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb. 26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown

**February 23, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**Kiev reveres Khojaly victims  
(February 23, 2011)**

The wreaths with a ribbon "Khojaly genocide, Holodomor" were laid to the memorial complex to the victims of Holodomor in Kiev within the events dedicated to the 19 th anniversary of Khojaly genocide. The event was held in Ukraine on the joint initiative of the Youth Forum of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Association of Azerbaijani Youth of Ukraine.

The activists of the Association of Azerbaijani Youth of Ukraine and the National Youth Movement of Ukraine held a march from the central square of Kiev to the memorial complex to the victims of Holodomor, chanting slogans of "End to Armenian terror" and "Justice for Khojaly".

The activists launched 613 (the number of victims of Khojali genocide) black balloons into the air and urged the international community and international organizations to give a legal assessment of the Armenians' atrocities in Khojaly.

The head of Azerbaijani association of Ukrainian youth Anar Tahirov and deputy head Javid Huseynzade appreciated the activities within the "Justice for Khojaly" campaign, initiated by the Leyla Aliyeva, General Coordinator for Intercultural Dialogue of the OIC, as a significant step forward for justice in the world.

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**February 23, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**Bundestag hosts event on Khojaly tragedy  
(February 23, 2011)**

On Wednesday, Bundestag (the German Parliament) hosted an event entitled "Crimes against humanity are not forgotten. In memory of the victims of Khojali massacre and the aggression against Azerbaijan" dedicated to the 19th anniversary of Khojaly tragedy, the Azerbaijani Embassy in Berlin reported.

The event was held by the Society for the development of German-Azerbaijani relations (GeFDAB) with the support of the Embassy of Azerbaijan.

Speaking before the guests, Bundestag MP Axel Fischer noted that because of atrocities committed against women, children and the elderly in Khojaly, the city had been wiped off the map. He stressed that international organizations, including PACE do recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as part of Azerbaijan.

Another German MP, Peter Beyer, stressed in his speech the importance of more active participation of the European Union in resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Azerbaijan's Ambassador to Germany Parviz Shahbazov said that the Azerbaijani side accepted the latest proposals of OSCE Minsk Group on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and is waiting for Armenia's response to them. Shahbazov noted the need for political assessment of Khojaly tragedy.

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The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. Armenian armed forces have occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan since 1992, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and 7 surrounding districts.

Azerbaijan and Armenia signed a ceasefire agreement in 1994. The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group - Russia, France, and the United States - are currently holding the peace negotiations.

Armenia has not yet implemented the U.N. Security Council's four resolutions on the liberation of the Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding regions.

**February 23, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**Ambassador: Azerbaijan will never agree with the violation of its territorial integrity  
(February 23, 2011)**

Azerbaijan is ready to provide the high degree of autonomy to Nagorno-Karabakh, but it is possible only within the territorial integrity of our state, the Azerbaijani Ambassador to Sweden, Rafael Ibragimov said Tuesday at the lecture on tragic events in Khojaly. "Azerbaijan will never agree with the violation of its territorial integrity. We will make every effort to reach the peaceful settlement of the conflict while the possibility to negotiate exists", Ibragimov said, speaking to the students at the University of Linköping.

The two-hour lecture of Azerbaijani diplomat was devoted to the Khojaly genocide, committed by Armenian armed forces in 1992. The Ambassador told about the history of origin of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the occupation of 20 percent of Azerbaijani territory by Armenia, which resulted in mass ethnic cleansings and the flow of Azerbaijani refugees.

According to him, Azerbaijan is the central energy and economic partner in the region for today and it maintains good relations with all its neighbours except Armenia. "We can not cooperate with a country that had occupied 20 percent of our territory. As long as the conflict remains unresolved, Armenia will have only a loss, because it deprived of the opportunity to participate in regional economic projects," Ibragimov said. Participants were also handed out leaflets informing about the "Justice for Khojaly" campaign.

A protest action of Azerbaijanis living in Sweden in memory of victims of Khojaly genocide will be held at the central square of Stockholm on February 26.

The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb. 26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

**February 23, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh>**

**Azerbaijani MP proposes to place monument to Khojaly victims in Izmir  
(February 24, 2011)**

Azerbaijani MP Ganira Pashayeva proposed placing a monument to the victims of the Khojaly genocide in the Turkish city of Izmir. The proposal was voiced during an event dedicated to the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide. The event was held in one of the biggest Turkish cities Izmir.

The head of the Sparta Municipality, Yusuf Ziya Gunaydin, lauded the proposal and a monument to the victims of Khojaly genocide will be placed in the center of Sparta soon, Pashayeva said.

"We would like Izmir to join this proposal," she said.

"A monument to the victims will be a message of the eternal Azerbaijani-Turkish brotherhood. It is very important for the younger generation to be well aware of this story", she added.

The MP also proposed that the Izmir Municipality officially recognize the Khojaly genocide and talk about its importance and necessity.

The MP noted that all Turks and the entire Turkic world must work together with Azerbaijanis and exert efforts to inform the public about the genocide committed by Armenia.

She said this genocide was committed against Turks and it is a problem for the entire Turkic world.

The MP urged Turkic youth to be active in restoring the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

**February 24, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**Khojaly tragedy commemorated in Switzerland  
(February 24, 2011)**

Switzerland hosted an event in connection with the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide this week.

The event was held at the Swiss Parliamentary Political Forum Center with the support of the Azerbaijani Embassy and Azerbaijani Cultural Center in Switzerland, the embassy reported.

The event began with a moment of silence for the victims of the genocide. A photo exhibition was then held, where the participants studied numerous photographic, audio and video materials, as well as a collection of documents about Khojaly.

The embassy also presented the book, "Khojaly Genocide" and a brochure published by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

Representatives of various organizations in Switzerland, members of the Azerbaijani Cultural Center, representatives of Azerbaijani and Turkish diaspora organizations, students, journalists and representatives of public circles, attended the event.

Head of the Azerbaijani Cultural Center Gasim Nasirov told the audience about the horrors of the Khojali genocide.

Participants were shown a video titled, "Justice for Khojaly," and distributed T-shirts with the inscription "Justice for Khojaly." The event was greeted with great interest and took place in the format of an interactive dialogue.

Azerbaijani Ambassador to Switzerland Murad Najafbayli informed participants about the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and existing threats to peace and stability in the South Caucasus region.

It was also noted that Azerbaijan has made the necessary arrangements to ensure that the world community recognizes the Khojaly genocide, which is an outstanding example of the aggressive policy of Armenia.

**February 24, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**Marneuli reveres Khojaly victims  
(February 24, 2011)**

The Georgian city of Marneuli, inhabited by Azerbaijanis (Kvemo Kartli, eastern Georgia), reveres the victims of Khojaly tragedy. The event was initiated by the Congress of Georgian Azerbaijanis and with the assistance of the Azerbaijani Embassy in Georgia.

"It was a great tragedy, which killed hundreds of people, including women and children. We will always remember these victims and the tragedy, mourning the dead," Azerbaijani Ambassador to Georgia Namik Aliyev said in an interview with media.

**February 24, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**Event dedicated to Khojaly massacre in Bundestag  
(February 25, 2011)**

The German-Azerbaijani Relations Development Society has organized an event to commemorate the 19th anniversary of Khojaly massacre. The event on theme “Outrages on humanity can not be forgotten. In memory of Khojaly massacre`s victims and aggression towards Azerbaijan” took place at German Bundestag and was supported by the Embassy of Azerbaijan to Germany.

Chair of the German-Azerbaijani Relations Development Society, ex-member of Bundestag Edward Linter, current members of Bundestag Aksel Fisher, Peter Beyer as wellas the member of the Azerbaijan Parliament Rovshan Rzayev and the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Germany Parviz Shakhbazov and others spoke at the event.

The orators emphasized that the crimes committed in Khojaly by the Armenian armed forces and Soviet army resulted in savage murder of 613 innocent people, including 63 children and 106 women.

**February 25, 2011**  
**[http://www.azertag.gov.az/index\\_en](http://www.azertag.gov.az/index_en)**

**Canada's leading university marks 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Khojaly genocide  
(February 25, 2011)**

Toronto University (Canada) hosted a presentation commemorating the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide on Thursday.

Students, representatives of the Azerbaijani and Turkish communities in Canada, as well as representatives of the Azerbaijani Embassy in Canada attended the event, organized by the Azerbaijani Student Association at the University of Toronto (AzSA) and the Azerbaijani-American Council (AAC).

AzSA representatives Togrul Ibrahimli and Isgender Gadirzade delivered keynote addresses at the presentation. They informed the audience about the facts and figures of the massacre of Azerbaijanis by Armenian armed forces when occupying Khojaly.

Speaking at the event, General Director of the Azerbaijani-American Council Dr. Javid Huseynov drew parallels between the Khojaly genocide (February 1992) and Srebrenica (July 1995). He noted that in 2007 the International Tribunal in Hague recognized the massacre of 8,000 Bosnian Muslims in Srebrenica as genocide, while the genocide in Khojaly remained outside the focus of the Western public. In March 2010, the Serbian parliament showed goodwill by formally recognizing and asking for a pardon for the crime committed by the Serbian forces. Meanwhile, the leadership of Armenia has shamelessly and brutally refuted the crime.

An Eurasian Research Institute documentary on mass extermination of Azerbaijanis in Guba by the Dashnak forces in March 1918 was also screened at the event.

Upon the conclusion of the event, views were exchanged on the role of the Azerbaijani and Turkish communities in bringing the truth of the genocide to the Canadian public.

**February 25, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy commemorates victims of Khojaly genocide  
(February 25, 2011)**

The Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (ADA) hosted an event to commemorate the victims of Khojaly genocide.

Teachers and students of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, headed by its rector, Deputy Foreign Minister Hafiz Pashayev watched the new film 'Life epopee of IDP Anar Usubov' dedicated to the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

During the event, was noted that the Khojaly genocide is one of the ruthless crimes against Azerbaijanis in the twentieth century, and this massacre will never be forgotten. It was also stated the importance of presenting to the world community the truth about the Khojaly genocide and the politics of ethnic cleansing pursued by the Armenians against the local population of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The film's hero, Anar Usubov, who at the age of eight witnessed Khojaly genocide, also attended the event. Later, teachers and students visited the monument to Khojaly

**February 25, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**Trend's 'When words freeze' film screened in Tbilisi  
(February 25, 2011)**

Organized by NGO 'Georgia - my homeland', an event was conducted in Tbilisi at 'Caucasian house' dedicated to the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy. Representatives of Azerbaijani NGOs of Georgia, Azerbaijani students, representatives of the Georgian intelligentsia, attended the event.

During the event, was organized a photo exhibition reflecting the victims of the tragedy, and a film taken by Trend International News Agency "When words freeze..."

Participants of the event paid a minute's silence to honor the victims of Khojaly tragedy. Chairman of NGO 'Georgia - my homeland' Ali Babayev spoke about the history of the tragedy.

The film "When words freeze..." ("Sözün bitdiyi zaman") was produced by AMI TREND as part of project of the State Support for Media Development Fund under the Azerbaijani President.

The storyline is devoted to paintings of historical chronology of the genocide policy carried out by Armenians against Azerbaijanis, for many years. The film tells of the atrocities committed by Armenians during the occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh - the last stage of the Armenian vandalism. The people who witnessed the atrocities committed by Armenians spoke to the film.

The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb. 26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

**February 25, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**Tbilisi holds event on Khojaly tragedy  
(February 25, 2011)**

The event on Khojaly tragedy was held in Tbilisi on Feb. 25. The flowers were laid at the bust of Azerbaijani national leader and sincere friend of Georgia Heydar Aliyev, the Azerbaijani embassy in Georgia told Trend.

Then, the Azerbaijani-Georgian cultural center Varlig demonstrated a cultural program. Azerbaijani ambassador to Georgia professor Namik Aliyev attended all the events.

**February 25, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**Syria reveres Khojaly victims  
(February 25, 2011)**

The Azerbaijani Embassy in Syria held the ceremony with the participation of representatives of the Azerbaijani community and Azerbaijani students studying in this country on February 24. The event was dedicated to the 19 th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy, the embassy told Trend.

The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb. 26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

**February 25, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**Oslo holds workshop on Khojaly genocide  
(February 25, 2011)**

The Azerbaijani Embassy in Sweden held a workshop on the Khojaly genocide with the support of the Norwegian-Azerbaijani Youth Organization and Azerbaijani Diaspora in Norway on Feb. 24.

The workshop was held with the participation of Norwegian academics, and Turkish diplomats, as well as Azerbaijani students and community representatives.

Azerbaijani Ambassador to Norway Rafael Ibrahimov, who is accredited to Sweden, spoke about the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the ethnic cleansing pursued by the Armenian separatists on Azerbaijan's occupied territories.

"The Armenians themselves are ashamed of this page in their history. A number of international documents and the Western media have recognized this inhumanity," the diplomat said.

The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb. 26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

An 11-minute film in English about the conflict and the genocide was screened for the participants of the workshop. A photo exhibition was also organized.

Speaking about the negotiations on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the ambassador pointed out the impossibility of establishing stability and peace in the region until the problem is solved.

"The conflict remains a major problem in the region. Preserving the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan remains the basic principle in its settlement for us. Official Baku will not stray from the path of finding a diplomatic solution to the conflict," he said.

The Azerbaijani side still has hopes for a peaceful and fair resolution by preserving all principles of democratic rights and territorial integrity.

Stressing the role of the international community in the peace process, the ambassador discussed the resolutions adopted by the U.N. Security Council condemning Armenian aggression and the official documents of European institutions, noting their inefficiency.

"Despite the support of Azerbaijan's position, the world community is not able to force Armenia to meet these requirements because there is no well-designed power mechanism," he said.

The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. Armenian armed forces have occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan since 1992, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts.

Azerbaijan and Armenia signed a ceasefire agreement in 1994. The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group - Russia, France, and the United States - are currently holding the peace negotiations.

Armenia has not yet implemented the U.N. Security Council's four resolutions on the liberation of the Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding regions.

**February 25, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**Kuwaiti newspaper publishes article about Khojaly genocide  
(February 25, 2011)**

The Kuwaiti Al-Nahar newspaper, which has a wide readership, published an article on the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy, the Azerbaijani Embassy in Kuwait told Trend.

The article provides detailed information on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the capture of Azerbaijani territories by Armenian vandals, the atrocities committed during the capture, the material and spiritual damage suffered by Azerbaijan, as well as the indifferent attitude of Yerevan to the four U.N. resolutions demanding the liberation of the occupied lands.

This article describes the atrocities committed by the Armenian armed forces with Soviet weapons in Khojaly. Regarding the brutal murder of 613 people, including 63 children and 106 women, the article notes that this event is regarded as one of the worst crimes the 20th century and is compared with the crimes committed by the Nazis during WWII.

The paper highlighted the role of the Azerbaijani national leader in identifying and exposing the truth about the aggressive policies of Armenia to the world.

The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb. 26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown

**February 25, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**Alexei Vlasov: Khojaly - tragic milestone in memory of not only Azerbaijani people  
(February 26, 2011)**

Twentieth brutal century is an era that is associated with blood, pain and human tragedy, the Deputy Dean of the History Faculty of Moscow State University, a member of the Trend Expert Council Alexei Vlasov said at the Moscow conference and a memorial evening dedicated to the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy.

According to him, this is the epoch of two devastating wars that have completely changed people's perceptions about the extent permitted.

According to Vlasov, the experience of history in late 20th century was filled up with new names of settlements followed with someone's pain, memory of the dead fathers, mothers, children, sisters and brothers.

"Khojaly is a tragic milestone in the memory of not only Azerbaijani people, but also all those who sincerely want such events to never repeat," he said.

According to him, the memory of 613 dead civilians is not only a line of textbook on modern history, but open wound in the heart of its contemporaries.

"Honoring the memory of the victims, we must first think and act in one direction - to prevent the repeat of such events at any part of South Caucasus, the former Soviet Union, the Eurasian region, he said. - And I would like to point out the noble mission of international information campaign "Justice for Khojaly", initiated by the Russian representative office of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and personally by its chairperson Leyla Aliyeva."

The purpose of the campaign is to tell the world the truth about the Khojaly - well clear to anyone experiencing feelings of compassion for the victims, said Vlasov.

613 people were killed, 1,000 peaceful people of different age became invalid during Khojaly genocide. 106 women, 63 children, 70 old men were killed. Eight families were completely annihilated, 130 children lost one parents, while 25 both of them. 1,275 civilians were taken hostages, while the fate of 150 of them is still unknown.

**February 26, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**Victims of Khojaly genocide commemorated with minute of silence  
(February 26, 2011)**

Victims of the Khojaly genocide were commemorated with a minute of silence throughout the country at 17:00 on Feb.26.

Car traffic was suspended for a minute during this time.

Armenian armed forces with the help of the 366th motor-rifling regiment occupied Azerbaijan's Khojaly city and committed genocide killing hundreds of innocent people because of their ethnic background on February 26, 1992. As a result, 613 people were savagely killed, 487 were injured, and 1,275 people were taken into hostage. The fates of many of them are still unknown. After 366th motor rifling, regiment's withdrawal from Khankendi major part of the military equipment owned by this military unit was transferred to the Armenian separatists.

**February 26, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**Turkish embassy in Azerbaijan commemorates 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Khojaly tragedy  
(February 26, 2011)**

The Turkish Embassy in Azerbaijan commemorated the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy today.

Turkish historian, Professor Hikmet Ozdemir made a presentation on "Activity of the Armenians: 1915-2015" during the event. He drew parallels between the events in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly in February 1992 and the events in eastern Turkey in 1915.

Turkish Ambassador to Azerbaijan Hulusi Kilic, MP Nizami Jafarov, Azerbaijani and Turkish scientists attended the event.

The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb. 26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown

**February 26, 2011**

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**Azerbaijani National Security Ministry's Academy  
hosted event dedicated to anniversary of Khojaly tragedy  
(February 26, 2011)**

The Heydar Aliyev Academy of the Ministry of National Security hosted an event dedicated to the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

Memory of the Khojaly genocide victims was honored with a moment of silence, Ministry's center for public relations told Trend. Then, the national anthem of Azerbaijan was voiced.

Deputy Rector of the Academy, Major General Iskandar Allahverdiyev spoke in detail about the brutal murders of Khojaly civilians, including children, women and the elderly, by the Armenian bandits and the 366th rifle regiment of the former Soviet empire on the night from Feb. 25 to 26.

Allahverdiyev noted that Khojaly tragedy was the most ruthless aggression against the Azerbaijani national consciousness and the spirit of national freedom. According to Allahverdiyev, it is impossible to forget this sorrow, this tragedy and its authors, it is necessary to examine and pass to future generations the story in order to prevent the repetition of such horrific tragedies.

According to Allahverdiyev, only after the National Leader Heydar Aliyev returned to power, a political assessment was given to Khojaly tragedy, this terrible event was recognized as genocide against the Azerbaijanis, it became possible to take public care about the families of victims of the tragedy. Decrees and orders to immortalize the names of martyrs, to assist their family members are evidence of great respect and care.

According to Allahverdiyev, the steps taken because of confident and successful policy of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev to return ancestral lands of Azerbaijan serve the national interests of Azerbaijan. According to him, the political way of the National Leader Heydar Aliyev is continued by his worthy successor, President Ilham Aliyev. The President, who prefers to a diplomatic and civilized way to resolve the conflict, categorically said that if necessary, all means will be used to restore the country's territorial integrity, and Azerbaijan will never retreat from its fair position.

**February 26, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**Film about Khojaly genocide presented in Washington  
(February 26, 2011)**

Washington held the presentation of the film "Refugee: a long journey of Anar Yusubov" about Khojaly genocide. The presentation was held by the "Karabakh" fund, functioning in the U.S.

The film tells about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict witnessed by a 8-year resident of Khojaly Anar Yusubov. He cannot return to the land of his fathers and grandfathers. The film informs the U.S. public about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, refugees and the whole Azerbaijan and the Caucasus, the fund said.

Film director Cem Oguz specially invited from Turkey to the U.S. shared his thoughts and feelings he had while working on the film. The representatives of the Azerbaijani diaspora, students and prominent public figures and film critics attended the presentation. Before the film, Executive Director of the "Karabakh" fund Diana Altman proposed to revere victims' memory by a minute of silence.

The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb. 26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

"Karabakh" fund was created in November 2009 in the U.S. It has a high status 501 (C) 3, assigned by NGO. Its main objective is to acquaint Americans with Azerbaijan, its part Karabakh and in general the Caucasus, as well as to disseminate and promote Azerbaijani culture in the U.S. The fund holds exhibitions, forums, publishes books, implements programs and carries out other work to achieve these goals

**February 26, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**Khojaly tragedy commemorated in Romania  
(February 26, 2011)**

The Azerbaijani Embassy and representative office of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in Romania conducted a commemorative event dedicated to the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Khojaly genocide, the press service of the Embassy reported.

The event was attended by representatives of local intelligentsia, representatives of the EU and European Parliament institutions in Romania, members of the Romanian delegation to PACE, current and former senators, Azerbaijanis living and studying in Romania, representatives of the Turkic-Tatar community, ethnic Azerbaijanis from Iran, representatives of the Romanian youth awarded with Heydar Aliyev stipend, the representatives of embassies and international missions in Romania and the representatives of civil society organizations specializing in human rights.

The event participants paid a minute's silence in memory of those brutally killed in Khojaly. Noting that the Khojaly genocide is the most terrible and bloody day in the history of Azerbaijan, the speakers at the event informed about the grave consequences of bloodshed committed by the Armenians.

Later, the participants of the event was provided with information on the international information campaign "Justice for Khojaly" established by Leyla Aliyeva, the Vice President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, General Coordinator of the OIC Youth Foundation on Intercultural Dialogue. The initiative was highly appreciated by guests. It was also noted that the campaign has completed collecting signatures on a petition to be addressed to world leaders to recognize Khojaly genocide as a crime committed against humanity.

The event participants got familiarized with the brochures from the series "Real Facts on Karabakh" published by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, with books "Khojaly genocide (in the documents, facts and foreign press)", "Khojaly tragedy" published in Romanian, "Armenian myth. Armenian extremism: its causes and its historical content. A photo exhibition "Khojaly with eyes of children", reflecting the horrors of Khojali genocide, was demonstrated.

The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb. 26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

**February 26, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**NGOs of Turkish countries call for international organizations  
to recognize Khojaly tragedy as act of genocide  
(February 26, 2011)**

The Civil Society Forum of the Turkic peoples urged international organizations to recognize Khojaly tragedy as the act of genocide. The forum sent a statement to the UN, UN Secretary General, and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the European Commission, Council of Europe, OSCE, International Peace Bureau, World Youth Assembly, Parliaments of the Turkic countries and their embassies in Azerbaijan.

The representatives of civil societies of Azerbaijan, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan joined the statement.

Despite witnesses, photographs and video materials confirming that the act of genocide was committed in Khojaly, international organizations have not given a legal assessment of these events yet. It is regarded as the indifference of these organizations and an example of double standards, the statement said.

"International organizations must restore the violated rights of these people and facilitate their returning home, make serious actions to release prisoners of war and hostages, as well as correct their mistake. They must recognize that these events are a manifestation of the ruthless genocide. "It is a crime against humanity," a statement said.

The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb. 26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

**February 26, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**Spain and Turkmenistan mourn Khojaly massacre victims  
(February 26, 2011)**

Azerbaijan`s Embassy to Spain has organized a commemorative event to mark the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly massacre.

The event brought together ambassadors of Turkey, Kazakhstan, Iran, Bangladesh and Serbia to Spain and employees of diplomatic representations of US, Czechia, Ukraine and Georgia. Addressing the event, Azerbaijan`s ambassador to the country Altay Afandiyev briefed participants on the Khojaly tragedy. He also spoke of the follow-up to the “Justice for Khojaly” campaign. Books and brochures on the Khojaly massacre were distributed to participants of the event.

Participants watched a documentary film and video clip from Toni Blackman and Dayirman on the Khojaly tragedy.

\* \* \*

Azerbaijan`s Embassy to Turkmenistan has organized a remembrance event marking the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly massacre.

The event brought together Azerbaijanis living in the country and employees of diplomatic missions of foreign countries. Azerbaijan`s ambassador to the country Vahdat Sultanzade informed participants about the Khojaly tragedy.

He also spoke of what is being done as part of the “Justice for Khojaly” campaign, initiated by General Coordinator of the Islamic Conference Youth Forum, vice-president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Leyla Aliyeva.

Head of the Caucasian Muslims` Board Sheikh ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazade`s message to world`s religious leaders was read out at the event. Participants watched documentary films and video clip on the Khojaly tragedy.

**February 26, 2011**  
**[http://www.azertag.com/index\\_en](http://www.azertag.com/index_en)**

**Berlin remembers Khojaly massacre victims  
(February 26, 2011)**

A rally to mark the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly massacre was Saturday staged in Berlin.

Berlin-based Azerbaijan House, German-Azerbaijani Solidarity Society, and Coordination Center of Azerbaijanis in Germany organized the event.

Different kinds of brochures and booklets were distributed to rally participants. A statement urging the world community to judge the genocide legally and politically was read out.

The demonstration gathered representative of the State Committee for Work with Diaspora, Azerbaijanis living in Germany, representatives of the Turkish and Jewish Diasporas.

**February 26, 2011**

**[http://www.azertag.gov.az/index\\_en](http://www.azertag.gov.az/index_en)**

**Rally in Paris dedicated to the memory of Khojaly  
(February 26, 2011)**

Azerbaijani Youth Association and Azerbaijan`s Embassy to France organized a rally in Paris to revere a memory of Khojaly victims.

The book “Karabakh realities” published by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation was disseminated among the participants.

Armenian military forces committed massacre against hundreds of Azerbaijani civilians of a small town of Khojaly in the Nagorno Karabakh region of Azerbaijan on the night from February 25 to February 26, 1992, which constitutes one of the worst crimes against humanity. The civilians who tried to abandon the town through humanitarian corridor left 613 dead most of them elders, women and children.

**February 26, 2011**  
**[http://www.azertag.gov.az/index\\_en](http://www.azertag.gov.az/index_en)**

**Letters on Khojaly genocide addressed to German organizations  
(February 27, 2011)**

Coordination Center of Azerbaijanis in Germany has addressed letters on the Khojaly genocide to nearly 120 organizations, including Bundestag, governmental bodies, NGOs, mass media, political parties and Diaspora organizations.

The letters give information regarding the mass slaughter of the innocent people in Khojaly in 1992.

The Khojaly genocide is described as one of the gravest crimes against the humanity in the letters.

Information about the Justice for Khojaly international campaign is reflected in the letters, as well.

**February 27, 2011**

**[http://www.azertag.gov.az/index\\_en](http://www.azertag.gov.az/index_en)**

**Khojaly genocide`s anniversary commemorated in China  
(February 27, 2011)**

Azerbaijan`s Embassy in China has arranged a commemorative event to mark the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy.

The event brought together members of the diplomatic corps accredited to China, representatives of international organizations, Azerbaijani students studying in Beijing, businessmen and others. Counsellor of the Embassy, Bayram Hasanov said the Khojaly genocide was one of the gravest crimes against not only the Azerbaijani people, but also the humanity.

Hasanov stressed the importance of the Justice for Khojaly international campaign to make the world community known about the massacre.

The Azerbaijani Embassy also sent the text of address of Head of the Caucasian Muslims` Board Sheikh ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazade to religious leaders of the world and international organizations on the Khojaly bloodshed and press release to diplomatic representations in Beijing, governmental bodies, research institutes and media outlets.

**February 27, 2011**  
**[http://www.azertag.gov.az/index\\_en](http://www.azertag.gov.az/index_en)**

**Another individual included in list of wanted peoples in connection with Khojaly tragedy  
(February 27, 2011)**

Another individual has been included in the list of wanted peoples in connection with the Khojaly genocide.

In late 2010, the name of the commander of the third battalion of the 366th Russian motor-rifling regiment Nabokikh Yevgeni Alexandrovich, who took active part in committing genocide against Khojaly's civilian population, was included in the list of peoples internationally wanted, Azerbaijani Military Prosecutor's Office told Trend.

The total number of wanted peoples in connection with the Khojali genocide hits 39 people. So far, no one of the wanted peoples has been arrested, the Prosecutor's Office said.

The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb. 26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

**February 27, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**Serbia commemorates Khojaly genocide victims  
(February 27, 2011)**

Azerbaijani Embassy in Serbia held a ceremony commemorating the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide. The event was attended by members of the Azerbaijani Culture Center in Belgrade and the Serbian-Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce, members of the Azerbaijani community living in Serbia, the Azerbaijani students, members of the Serbian public, Belgrade's Muslim community and the media outlets, the embassy said.

Speaking at the event, Ambassador Eldar Hasanov said that the Khojaly genocide is one of the unforgettable, terrible and bloody events in Azerbaijan's history. Due to incredible cruelty this genocide act, committed against our people by the Armenian armed groups, can be put on a par with the tragedies in Khatyn, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, My Lai.

Hasanov said that Armenia is pursuing aggressive policy and the policy of ethnic cleansing against our country and people.

"Memory of the Khojaly genocide victims is commemorated in Azerbaijan, as well as our compatriots, residing in different countries and diaspora organizations," the ambassador said.

The chairman of Azerbaijani Culture Center in Belgrade, Zarifa Alizade, members of the Serbian-Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce, Azerbaijani students living and studying in Serbia shared their views about the Khojaly genocide at the event.

The website / [www.justiceforkhojaly.org/](http://www.justiceforkhojaly.org/), which plays a great role in informing public about the policy of genocide carried out by Armenia against our people, was launched for remembrance of February 26 as the day of the Khojaly genocide and informing public.

Later the event participants watched a documentary about the horrors of Khojali genocide.

Press release prepared by the embassy in connection with the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide, was sent to the Serbian state and government authorities, the parliament, NGOs, embassies and international organizations operating in Serbia.

The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb. 26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

**February 27, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**Memory of Khojaly genocide`s victims honored in Dushanbe  
(February 27, 2011)**

A commemorative event to mark the anniversary of the Khojaly genocide has been held in Azerbaijan`s Embassy in Tajikistan. The event was attended by representatives of embassies of foreign countries and international organizations, members of the Diaspora organizations and journalists.

Opening the event, Ambassador Maharram Aliyev spoke of the Khojaly tragedy, saying it was one of the gravest crimes of the 20th century. The diplomat said 613 civilians were brutally killed during the Khojaly massacre, and the town itself was levelled to the ground.

The ambassador underlined the importance of the “Justice for Khojaly” international campaign, initiated by General Coordinator of the Islamic Conference Youth Forum, Vice-President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Leyla Aliyeva.

The event participants were handed over materials about the Khojaly tragedy in Azerbaijani, Russian, English and German languages.

Books, brochures and other information on the Khojaly tragedy were sent to Tajikistan`s Foreign Ministry, embassies, offices of international organizations and media outlets.

**February 27, 2011**  
**[http://www.azertag.gov.az/index\\_en](http://www.azertag.gov.az/index_en)**

**Khojaly genocide`s victims commemorated in Vienna  
(February 27, 2011)**

The Azerbaijan Academician Union has arranged a mass action on the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide in Stefan square in Vienna. Books, brochures and other materials in various languages reflecting the realities about the Khojaly tragedy and Nagorno-Karabakh conflict were demonstrated in a tent installed in the square.

Video and photo materials on the Khojaly massacre were demonstrated on the screens installed in the square, as well.

**February 27, 2011**  
**[http://www.azertag.com/index\\_en](http://www.azertag.com/index_en)**

**Khojaly memorial conference held in Washington (February 28, 2011)**

A memorial conference dedicated to the 19th anniversary of Khojaly Massacre was held at George Washington University (GWU) in Washington, DC on February 25. For a second year in a row, Azerbaijani-American Council (AAC), Azerbaijan Society of America (ASA), Assembly of Turkish-American Associations (ATAA), Turkish Student Association (GWU-TSA), and the American Turkish Association of Washington, DC (ATA-DC) organized the event jointly.

In his introductory speech, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the U.S., H.E. Yashar Aliyev, called the audience for a moment of silence in memory of the victims of Khojaly Massacre. He further thanked the organizers and emphasized that the awareness of Khojaly tragedy is increasing with every year. Ambassador Aliyev noted that in February 2011, four Members of House offered Congressional remarks recognizing and remembering the victims of Khojaly massacre, AAC told Trend today.

The event featured a 2006 documentary film "The 1992 Khojaly Genocide" and four panel speakers: Montana State University professor and AAC Board Director, Thomas Goltz; Deputy Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, Tofiq Musayev; the ATAA President-Elect and Pax Turcica Institute (PTI) Board Director, Ergun Kirlikovali; and the ASA Executive Director, Dr. Javid Huseynov.

Speaking first, Thomas Goltz shared his experience as a witness and provided own interpretation of the Khojaly massacre. He suggested the book "My Brother's Road" by Markar Melkonian, written based on a diary of his brother, ASALA terrorist and Armenian military commander in Karabakh War, Monte Melkonian, as the most vivid account of what transpired in Khojaly and other atrocities of Karabakh war. Thomas Goltz also offered suggestions to improve the awareness of the tragedy worldwide by emphasizing the existing gravity of the crime rather than pursuit of its genocidal intent.

The second panel speaker, Tofiq Musayev, talked about the possible legal interpretations of Khojaly Massacre as a crime against humanity. He drew comparisons between Khojaly and the war crimes committed in former Yugoslavia, specifically the 1995 Srebrenica massacre that was identified by the International Criminal Tribunal on Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) as an act of genocide in 2004 and 2007 respectively.

Further, Ergun Kirlikovali of ATAA/PTI presented facts and figures about the forced migrations and massacres of Muslims and Turks in Anatolia and Caucasus during and after the World War I. He emphasized that similar to Khojaly case, these mass deportations and killings of millions of people stayed outside of Western attention due to obvious bias.

In conclusion, of the event, Dr. Huseynov of ASA/AAC indicated that in case of Srebrenica massacre, there was redemption, when in March 2010; the Parliament of Serbia asked a formal apology for its failure to prevent the genocide of Bosnian Muslims. In contrast, in the case of Khojaly, Armenian government continues to formally deny its involvement despite the magnitude of evidence pointing to its primary role in the massacre. He further pointed out that regardless of the final legal definition of Khojaly tragedy, it is a crime without prosecution, and the objective in conducting the Khojaly campaign in the U.S. is to increase awareness and to force Armenian government to recognize its involvement and responsibility for the war crime.

As the leading organizers of Khojaly Memorial Week, AAC and ASA express their gratitude to GWU-TSA, ATA-DC, ATAA and the Turkish-American community for being active participants of the Khojaly commemorative events throughout the U.S.

613 people were killed, 1,000 peaceful people of different age became invalid during Khojaly genocide. 106 women, 63 children, 70 old men were killed. Eight families were completely annihilated, 130 children lost one parents, while 25 both of them. 1,275 peace residents were taken hostages, while the fate of 150 of them is still unknown.

**February 28, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**Opposition leader: Turkish people never to forgive perpetrators of Khojaly tragedy  
(February 28, 2011)**

The Turkish people will never forgive perpetrators of the Khojaly tragedy, CNN Turk quoted leader of the Turkish opposition Nationalist Movement Party Devlet Bahçeli as saying.

"Our people will never forget the mass killing of civilians by Armenian armed gangs," Bahçeli said.

Armenian armed forces with the help of the 366th motor-rifling regiment occupied Azerbaijan's Khojaly city and committed genocide killing hundreds of innocent people because of their ethnic background on February 26, 1992. As a result, 613 people were savagely killed, 487 were injured, and 1,275 people were taken into hostage. The fates of many of them are still unknown. After 366th motor rifling, regiment's withdrawal from Khankendi major part of the military equipment owned by this military unit was transferred to the Armenian separatists.

**February 28, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/politics>**

**NAP: Azerbaijani Parliament should give political assessment of Sumgait events  
(February 28, 2011)**

The Azerbaijani Parliament should give a political assessment to the Sumgait events, said deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, ruling New Azerbaijan Party (NAP) Deputy Executive Secretary, MP Mubariz Gurbanli said on Monday at a presentation of the [www.sumqait.com](http://www.sumqait.com) website.

"I think that the next session of the Parliament will make a decision on this issue, which will be based on materials received by the investigation team," he added.

He said the Armenians use the Sumgait events to hide the crimes that they committed in the Khojaly town.

"Every year, Armenians increase the number of people died during the Sumgait events," he added.

MP Chingiz Ganizade also believes that it is necessary to give a political assessment to the Sumgait events.

Azerbaijanis were deported from Armenia even before the Sumgait events, Parliamentary Legal Policy and State Building Committee Head Ali Huseynov said.

"We could not raise the issue related to the deportation of Azerbaijanis from Armenia in international organizations. Committing the Sumgait events, the Armenians came into the limelight. For this reason, we could not raise the issue of deportation," Huseynov said.

**February 28, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/society>**

**Documentary about Khojaly tragedy presented in California  
(February 28, 2011)**

The presentation of a film by the Turkish journalist Cem Oguz about a refugee from Khojaly Anar Usubov was held in Irvine with the support of the American Karabakh Foundation, the Turkish community in South California and the Azerbaijani Consulate General in Los Angeles, the Consulate General said.

The focus of the film is the fate of a young man who, despite the pain and loss experienced in early life, was able to build his life, never forgetting home in Karabakh. Author of the film Cem Oguz attended the presentation and answered questions of the audience.

In his turn, the Azerbaijani Consul General Elin Suleymanov stressed that mainly Khojaly tragedy and the fate of its inhabitants makes the rapid resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict necessary and IDPs' repatriation of internally displaced persons particularly acute.

Unfortunately, instead of expressing condolences for the Khojaly tragedy and regret over the participation of representatives of the Armenian diaspora of the United States in military crimes against civilian Azerbaijani population, the Armenian community's radical members prefer to organize propagandistic activities on the day of commemoration of the Khojaly tragedy victims.

Armenian armed forces with the help of the 366th motor-rifling regiment occupied Azerbaijan's Khojaly city and committed genocide, killing hundreds of innocent people because of their ethnic background on February 26, 1992. As a result, 613 people were savagely killed, 487 were injured, and 1,275 people were taken into hostage. The fates of many of them are still unknown. After the 366th motor-rifling regiment's withdrawal from Khankendi, a major part of the military equipment owned by this military unit was transferred to the Armenian separatists.

**February 28, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh>**

**UAE reveres Khojaly victims  
(February 28, 2011)**

The Azerbaijani Embassy in United Arab Emirates held a commemoration ceremony dedicated to the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide in Dubai today, the embassy said on Monday.

The members of the Azerbaijani community in the UAE, students from different universities in the country, members of the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry studying Arabic in the city of Al Ain (UAE), the head of the Azerbaijani International Bank's office in Dubai, and the chief editor of a magazine published in Dubai attended the event.

A documentary film about the Khojaly tragedy was screened. A stand with children's drawings, as well as books about the Khojaly genocide and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, was on display.

Roughly 613 people were killed, 1,000 peaceful people of different age became invalid during Khojaly genocide. 106 women, 63 children, 70 old men were killed. Eight families were completely annihilated, 130 children lost one parents, while 25 both of them. 1,275 peace residents were taken hostages, while the fate of 150 of them is still unknown.

**February 28, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh>**

**Book titled “Khojaly genocide: with words of witnesses” presented in Baku  
(February 28, 2011)**

A ceremony was conducted to present a book titled "Khojaly genocide: with words of witnesses". The book by MP Ganira Pashayeva and a member of the 'Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno-Karabakh' Public Union Havva Mammadova was published in Azerbaijani and Turkish languages.

Khojaly genocide is one of the worst tragedies in the history of the Azerbaijani people, MP Ganira Pashayeva said in her speech at the presentation ceremony.

According to the MP, preparing and publishing the book, they tried to do their duty. She said the book aims to present to readers the facts about the Khojaly genocide, with the words of witnesses.

"The book also includes articles published in the international media, the statements made by the Azerbaijani National Leader Heydar Aliyev and President Ilham Aliyev about the Khojaly genocide, the appeal of the Azerbaijani Parliament to the parliaments of other countries. In addition, the book includes the documents adopted by various international organizations on the fact of genocide," Pashayeva added.

According to the MP, the book, which includes photo-facts reflecting the horrors of genocide, the Armenian terror in general, contains exact figures, including lists of the dead, captured and held hostage, missing Khojaly residents, families, all of whose members were killed.

Armenian armed forces with the help of the 366th motor-rifling regiment occupied Azerbaijan's Khojaly city and committed genocide, killing hundreds of innocent people because of their ethnic background on February 26, 1992. As a result, 613 people were savagely killed, 487 were injured, and 1,275 people were taken into hostage. The fates of many of them are still unknown. After the 366th motor-rifling regiment's withdrawal from Khankendi, a major part of the military equipment owned by this military unit was transferred to the Armenian separatists.

**February 28, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh>**

**Azerbaijani embassy in Slovenia circulates statement on Khojaly tragedy  
(February 28, 2011)**

Azerbaijani embassy in Slovenia has circulated a statement on Khojaly tragedy. The press release was distributed among Slovenian Foreign Ministry, Parliament, Office of the President, Ombudsman, diplomatic corps, mass media agencies and Slovenian-Azerbaijan Friendship Association, the embassy representative told Trend.

Khojaly was a small town in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. Over the night from 25 to 26 February 1992 Armenian armed forces supported by 366th Soviet infantry regiment, invaded the town of Khojaly in the Nagorno Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. Occupation of Khojaly was followed by unprecedented cruelties against civilians. Within few hours the aggressors massacred 613 innocent and unarmed people, including 106 women and 83 children. 476 people became disabled. 1275 people were taken into hostage and the fates of 150 of them are still unknown. The event had sparked the exodus of Azerbaijanis from their historic lands. As a result of ethnic cleansing in Nagorno Karabakh, and other territories of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenian armed forces, about 1.000.000 people turned into IDP and refugees.

"Human tragedy in Khojaly was well documented by international media and by respected international human rights organizations such as Human Rights Watch. However, world decision-makers have fallen short from properly recognizing this horrific crime. Khojaly massacre was committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a group of people on the basis of their national origin. As such it is genocide, as described in 1948 UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide", the statement stressed.

"Failure to punish those responsible for the Khojaly Genocide is a reason why similar genocides may recur in the future, and whereas just assessment will help prevent future genocides. People of Azerbaijan urge international community to give legal evaluation to one of the most brutal crimes against humanity, the Khojaly massacre. To raise the awareness of Khojaly massacre an international awareness campaign "Justice for Khojaly" was launched in 2008. More than 140.000 people and 125 international organizations have joined the campaign. The campaign is carried out through peaceful actions, protests, conferences, presentations and publications. To find out more and to join the campaign please visit [www.justiceforkhojaly.org](http://www.justiceforkhojaly.org) which will help broaden the understanding of the scale of Khojaly massacre" the statement read.

**February 28, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/politics>.**

**Igdir commemorates Khojaly genocide victims  
(February 28, 2011)**

A commemorative meeting to mark the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly massacre was held in Turkish City of Igdir.

Speakers of the event highlighted legal and political aspects of the Khojaly tragedy. They also underlined the necessity to educate world community about the massacre and that the Turkish nation would never forget the crimes committed by Armenians against civilians.

The speakers expressed regret over a double-standard approach to Armenians` crimes, saying the international community is turning a blind eye on the issue.

The Khojaly Massacre was the killing of hundreds of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians from the town of Khojaly on 25–26 February 1992 by the Armenian and Russian armed forces during the Nagorno-Karabakh War. According to the Azerbaijani side, as well as Memorial Human Rights Center, Human Rights Watch and other international observers, the massacre was committed by the ethnic Armenian armed forces, reportedly with help of the Russian 366th Motor Rifle Regiment, apparently not acting on orders from the command. The official death toll provided by Azerbaijani authorities is 613 civilians, including 106 women and 83 children. The event became the largest massacre in the course of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

**February 28, 2011**  
**[http://www.azertag.gov.az/index\\_en](http://www.azertag.gov.az/index_en)**

**Turkish PM attends presentation of documentary “Islamic army of the Caucasus -1918”  
(February 28, 2011)**

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan attended a premiere of the documentary “Islamic Army of the Caucasus -1918” aired on TRT Turkish TV channel on the occasion of the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Khojaly massacre.

“The relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan are not love but stands by deep historic roots and strategic alliance. Our nations were together in each step of the history. We are the countries doing everything the goodwill ties demanded alongside the history. Throughout the history, we were together, our heart beat together with Azerbaijan,” Recep Tayyip Erdogan said. He added the relationship between Azerbaijan and Turkey starts from the liberation of Baku from bolshevik-dashnak troops by the Turkey`s Caucasus Islamic Army.

**February 28, 2011**  
**[http://www.azertag.gov.az/index\\_en](http://www.azertag.gov.az/index_en)**

**Latvia hosts event devoted to Khojaly genocide  
(March 1, 2011)**

The Azerbaijani Embassy in Latvia, with the participation of the Ochag and Azeri companies, held a memorial event dedicated to the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Khojaly genocide. The event was attended by representatives of the Azerbaijani diaspora and the embassy in Latvia, members of the Latvian parliament, representatives of the Latvian media and public figures.

Azerbaijani Ambassador to Latvia Elman Zeynalov, the chairman of the Ochag Culture Center of Azerbaijanis in Latvia, and the chairman of the Azeri society spoke at the event.

Participants were provided with information about the genocide committed by Armenian armed forces in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly. A photo exhibition reflecting the horrors of the Khojali genocide was also organized.

During the event, participants were given information about the activities of the campaign "Justice for Khojaly," which was launched in early 2009 and continued in 2011. There was observed a general adherence to the petition posted on the website [www.justiceforkhojaly.org](http://www.justiceforkhojaly.org).

Armenian armed forces with the help of the 366<sup>th</sup> motor-rifling regiment occupied Azerbaijan's Khojaly city and committed genocide, killing hundreds of innocent people because of their ethnic background on February 26, 1992. As a result, 613 people were savagely killed, 487 were injured, and 1,275 people were taken into hostage. The fates of many of them are still unknown. After the 366<sup>th</sup> motor-rifling regiment's withdrawal from Khankendi, a major part of the military equipment owned by this military unit was transferred to the Armenian separatists

**March 1, 2011**  
**<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh>**

**Estonia mourns Khojaly massacre victims  
(March 1, 2011)**

A commemorative event on the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy initiated by Azerbaijan`s Embassy to Estonia and Azerbaijani community has been held in Tallinn.

Vise-speaker of Estonian Parliament Keit Pentus, deputies Eldar Afandiyev, Evelyn Sepp, member of European Parliament Cristina Oiland, representatives of local TV, "Posti Mees" newspaper and non-governmental organizations attended the event.

The genocide committed by Armenian Armed Forces in Khojaly on February 25-26 in 1992 was presented by slide shows to participants.

Speaking at the event, Azerbaijan Ambassador to Estonia Tofiq Zulfugarov informed participants about Armenian vandalisms in Khojaly and film by Azerbaijan Embassy.

**March 1, 2011**  
**[http://www.azertag.gov.az/index\\_en](http://www.azertag.gov.az/index_en)**

**Tabriz's "Azerbaijan" newspaper features Khojaly massacre  
(March 3, 2011)**

The Tabriz-based largest circulation newspaper "Azerbaijan" has published an article about Khojaly tragedy.

It narrated on the commemoration ceremony, which had been held in Baku in front of the monument to Khojaly massacre victims.

The article also provided information about atrocities committed by Armenians in the town of Khojaly in February 1992.

**March 3, 2011**

**[http://www.azertag.gov.az/index\\_en](http://www.azertag.gov.az/index_en)**

**Belgian Parliament likely to discuss Khojaly genocide  
(January 6, 2012)**

The Belgium-Azerbaijan Interparliamentary Working Group is working for the Belgian parliament to discuss Khojaly genocide, MP Elhan Suleymanov, co-chairman of the Working group, told journalists on Friday.

He said this issue has been included in the Working Group's plan for 2012.

The plan also contains the issues of demonstrating the materials about Azerbaijan on Belgian television, holding student exchange, establishing fraternal relations between the Belgian city of Thuin and Azerbaijani city of Shamakhi and opening a monument to the prominent Azerbaijani poet Mirza Sabir Alakbar in Thuin.

The meeting was held with the delegation headed by co-chairman of the Belgium-Azerbaijan Working Group's on interparliamentary relations Philippe Blanchard in the parliament on Friday.

The First Vice-Speaker Ziyafet Asgarov informed the guests about Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. He stressed that 20 percent of Azerbaijani lands were occupied more than 20 years ago and Armenia carried out ethnic purges on these territories.

He also pointed out that the UN Security Council in different years adopted four resolutions in connection with the occupation of Azerbaijani territories by Armenia, but none of them has been implemented.

"If the Belgian parliament raises the issue of just resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict at its meetings, we will be able to say that Europe has begun deviating from double standards," he said.

The parties exchanged opinions on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, as well as Azerbaijani-Belgian relations.

Blanchard stressed the importance of the meeting at the briefing. He said that he will visit Azerbaijani regions on Jan.7, hold meetings with the representatives of organizations dealing with problems of refugees and internally displaced persons. The main goal of the Belgian delegation's visit is to discuss the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Blanchard said.

Armenian armed forces with the help of the 366th motor-rifling regiment occupied Azerbaijan's Khojaly city and committed genocide, killing hundreds of innocent people because of their ethnic background on February 26, 1992. As a result, 613 people were savagely killed, 487 were injured, and 1,275 people were taken into hostage. The fates of many of them are still unknown. After the 366th motor-rifling regiment's withdrawal from Khankendi, a major part of the military equipment owned by this military unit was transferred to the Armenian separatists.

<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh/1977095.html>

**World should recognise Khojaly genocide  
(January 25, 2012)**

The world should recognise the Khojaly genocide and in particular, the Turkish parliament will take serious steps to ensure recognition of the Khojaly genocide at international level, Secretary General of the Turkish ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) Haluk Ipek said.

"Turkey will do its best for recognition of the Khojaly genocide," Mr Ipek said.

He noted that due to Turkey's direct efforts, some measure of success in the issue of recognition of the Khojaly genocide has been achieved.

Armenian armed forces with the help of the 366th motor-rifle regiment occupied Azerbaijan's Khojaly city and committed genocide killing hundreds of innocent people because of their ethnic background on February 26, 1992.

As a result, 613 people were savagely killed, 487 were injured and 1275 people taken as hostage. The fate of many is still unknown. After the 366th motor-rifle regiment's withdrawal from Khankendi, a major part of the military equipment owned by this unit was transferred to the Armenian separatists.

Mr Ipek also stressed recognition of the "Armenian genocide" by the French Senate is an anti-Turkey and anti-Azerbaijan act.

France has no right to adopt such a law since according to historical facts in such small nations of the Caucasus as Armenians came to current situation due to guardianship and protection of the Ottoman Empire, the politician said.

Mr Ipek said decision of the Senate does not mean anything because there are wise politicians in France who take measures to abrogate the law.

"Turkey will not stop on the sanctions adopted previously against France. We are considering other options as well, including juridical confrontation," he said.

After eight hours of discussion, the Senate (upper chamber of the French parliament) voted for adoption of the law criminalising denial of the so called "Armenian genocide". Some 127 senators voted for, while 86 against.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey was preparing new sanctions against France.

The Lower House of the French Parliament adopted a bill criminalising the denial of the so-called "Armenian genocide" on Dec.22, 2011

The bill demands about a year's imprisonment and a fine of 45,000 euros for denial of the so-called "Armenian genocide".

MPs from the French President's Union for Popular Movement (UMP) party which has the parliamentary majority, proposed the bill which aims at criminalising denial of the so-called "Armenian genocide" to the legislative committee of the National Assembly in early December.

Armenia and the Armenian lobby claim that the predecessor of the Turkey - Ottoman Empire had committed the 1915 genocide against the Armenians living in Anadolu, and achieved recognition of the "Armenian Genocide" by the parliaments of several countries.

<http://en.trend.az/news/politics/1983983.html>

**ASAIF to commemorate Khojaly victims in Turkey  
(January 30, 2012)**

The 20th anniversary of Khojaly massacre will be marked in Turkey. Activists of the Azerbaijani Students and Alumni International Forum (ASAIF) will hold an action to commemorate the victims of the Khojaly massacre in Taksim square of Istanbul on February 26. The event will bring together students and members of public and youth organizations and movements of Turkey.

ASAIF, Azerbaijani Students and Alumni International Forum started in 2001 by organizing summer forums for the Azerbaijanis studying abroad.

The aim of ASAIF is to unite Azerbaijani students studying abroad.

Today many young politicians, economists, psychologists, lawyers, genetics, engineers, mathematicians, biologists, journalists are involved in ASAIF.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/911569>**

**Khojaly to be recognized as genocide in international level**  
**Representatives of the Parliaments of 51 states adopt the relevant resolution**  
**(January 31, 2012)**

The Parliamentary Union of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (PUIC) reaffirms support to the International Campaign “Justice for Khojaly”. The Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC)’s Headquarters in Istanbul reports that the 7th

The Parliamentary Union of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (PUIC) reaffirms support to the International Campaign “Justice for Khojaly”.

The Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC)’s Headquarters in Istanbul reports that the 7th Session of the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (PUIC) Conference held in Palembang (Indonesia) has ended. The PUIC unites the parliaments of 51 OIC member-states and holds its sessions every two years in one of the respective states of Africa, Asia and Arab region.

As Ambassador Elshad Iskandarov, ICYF-DC Secretary General who took part in the work of the Session told to AzerTAc upon initiation of ICYF-DC the formulation was included into the traditional resolution on “The Aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan” adopted by the PUIC. The paragraph devoted to the Khojaly tragedy says: “the Conference ... calls upon the Member Parliaments to initiate starting from 2012 (20th anniversary of the tragedy) a proper recognition to the genocidal massacre of Azerbaijani civilians by Armenian forces in the town of Khojaly (The Republic of Azerbaijan) on 26 February 2012; demands bringing to justice the perpetrators of the Khojaly massacre”. The position of the PUIC was reflected also in the Final Declaration of the Conference.

This recognition was result of the “Justice for Khojaly” international civil awareness Campaign initiated by Mrs. Leyla Aliyeva, ICYF-DC General Coordinator and held since 2009. The appraisal of the Parliamentary Union of 51 states is based on the proper demands of previous resolutions on the Cooperation between PUIC and ICYF-DC. In essence, according to the additions to the ICYF-DC initiated resolution presented by Mrs. Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, MP of the Republic of Azerbaijan, head of the Azerbaijani national delegation, the Conference adopted the decision in its Final Report to entrust the Secretariat with keeping focus on implementation of the said resolution calling upon the member-parliaments to support the Campaign in national and international levels.

Commenting on the significance of the resolution, Ambassador Iskandarov told: “First in international documents in this resolution the important and substantial political-legal assessment was given to the Khojaly tragedy that equates it to genocidal act. Taking into consideration that PUIC units a quarter of the world parliaments, using of this term possessing an important political-legal substance symbolizes a new stage in international recognition of the Khojaly tragedy as component part of policy of genocide implemented by the Armenian nationalists against Azerbaijani people and creates political preconditions for bringing to justice the perpetrators of the massacre”

“Justice for Khojaly” international civil awareness Campaign was initiated by Mrs. Leyla Aliyeva, ICYF-DC General Coordinator on the day of anniversary of the occupation of Shusha, May 8, 2008. Currently, the Campaign aiming at bringing the truth about the Khojaly tragedy to the world community, and achieving political, legal and moral appraisal, is being successfully implemented in over 35 countries worldwide.

<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/911772>

**Iran to host round table on Khojaly massacre  
(February 2, 2012)**

A round table called “Khojaly massacre - the most terrible human tragedy of the 20th century” dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the genocide will be held in Azerbaijan`s Embassy in Iran

A round table called “Khojaly massacre - the most terrible human tragedy of the 20th century” dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the genocide will be held in Azerbaijan`s Embassy in Iran.

Iranian officials, heads of the diplomatic corps accredited to Tehran and international organizations and representatives of city`s community have been invited to partake at the event.

A documentary on the Khojaly tragedy will be demonstrated and participants will be handed over materials to the effect.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/915045>**

**Rally on Khojaly genocide to be held in Istanbul  
(February 7, 2012)**

In connection with the 20th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy a rally will be held at Taksim square in Istanbul, the International Diaspora Center (IDC) told Trend on Monday.

A rally organized jointly by the IDC and the organization combating unfounded Armenian Armenia claims (ASİMDER) will be held on February 26 at 13:00 in front of the Galatasaray Lyceum and will last two hours.

A delegation, consisting of the Azerbaijani and Turkish MPs, intellectuals, representatives of NGOs and well-known art workers will take part in the action entitled "Shame on humanity - Khojaly".

At the same time, the WDC and ASİMDER will organize on Feb 23 in the city of Ushak, on Feb 24 at the University of Mugla and on Feb 25 at the conference hall of Halkali municipality activities in connection with the 20th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy.

Also, with the support of the Consulate General of Azerbaijan in St. Petersburg and the joint organization of regional representation of the IDC in St. Petersburg and the organization of Azerbaijani Diaspora activities dedicated to the anniversary of the Khojaly genocide will be held on February 25-26. Such activities in connection with the anniversary will also be held in the Czech Republic.

The genocide was carried out by Armenian military forces in Khojaly on Feb. 26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 elderly men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 civilians were taken hostage, while the fate of a further 150 remains unknown.

<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh/1989378.html>

**Turkish MP proposes Parliament to adopt law recognizing Khojaly genocide  
(8 February 2012)**

The MP from the Turkish National Movement Party Sinan Ogan has proposed the country's parliament to adopt a law recognizing the Khojaly genocide, MP's press-service said on Wednesday.

The bill also envisages erecting of the memorial to the genocide victims in such Turkish cities as Kars, Ardahan, Agri, Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Bursa, Kocaeli and Manisa.

The MP also proposed to rename Ankara's 'Paris' street into 'Khojaly'.

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**Brussels to host rally on Khojaly genocide  
(February 14, 2012)**

A rally marking the 20th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide will be held in Brussels on Feb.28, the Azerbaijan State Committee on Diaspora told Trend on Tuesday.

The two-hour rally under the slogan "All of us - Khojaly residents! All of us - Turks!" will be attended by representatives of the Azerbaijani and Turkish diasporas, political parties and public organizations in Brussels on Schuman Square in front of the European Commission.

The rally was initiated by the Azerbaijan-Belgium Friendship Society to draw public attention to the genocide committed by Armenia against Azerbaijani civilians in Khojaly.

The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb.26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. Some 487 civilians were disabled during the genocide. In addition, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh/1991899.html>

**Issue of Khojaly genocide to be raised at OSCE PA winter session  
(February 14, 2012)**

Issue of the Khojaly genocide will be raised at the OSCE PA winter session, the official website of the ruling New Azerbaijan party (NAP) quotes member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the OSCE PA Eldar Ibrahimov as saying.

XI winter session of the OSCE Parliamentary assembly will be held in Vienna on Feb 23-24.

OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou, incumbent chairman of the OSCE - minister for foreign affairs and trade of Ireland Eamon Gilmore and chairman of the Austrian parliament Barbara Prammer will attend the session.

At the same time it is planned to hold meetings of the standing committee, committees on political affairs and security, on democracy and human rights, on science and environment at the winter session.

**<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh/1992164.html>**

**Khojaly genocide to be discussed at Turkish Parliament  
(February 15, 2012)**

Discussion of the Khojaly genocide will be held at the Turkish parliament on Feb 23, the Turkish parliament told Trend on Wednesday.

MP from the ruling party, chairman of the Turkey-Azerbaijan Interparliamentary Friendship Group Necdet Unuvar and other MPs will speak in the parliament, he said.

The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb.26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. Some 487 civilians were injured during the genocide. In addition, 1275 passive residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

**<http://en.trend.az/news/politics/1992517.html>**

**International experts ready to cooperate with Azerbaijan on issue of Khojaly genocide  
(February 17, 2012)**

International experts are ready to work more closely with Azerbaijan in connection with the legal assessment of the Khojaly genocide, said the international conference "The experience of preventing genocide and mass murders - the role of international jurisdiction in the Western Balkans and South Caucasus", organized in connection with the 20th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide by Azerbaijani Embassy in Hungary together with the Foundation for the Prevention at international level of the facts of genocide and mass destruction, the Azerbaijani Embassy in Hungary told Trend on Friday.

Representatives of international organizations and prominent international law experts discussed the Khojaly tragedy at the conference.

Officials of the European Union and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the former UN and OSCE ambassadors, heads of diplomatic missions accredited in the country, public and political figures and journalists attended the event.

Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Hungary Vilayat Guliyev and the Foundation's director Dyord Tatar opened the conference.

The conference's participants observed a minute's silence in memory of victims of the genocides in Khojaly and Srebrenica.

Special adviser to the chief prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia Frederick Sweeney, head of the Foreign Service of the European Union Jonas Johnson, investigator of Special Department for War Crimes of Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina Alfredo Strippoli, witness of the genocide in Srebrenica Hasan Nuhanovich and others spoke at the first part of the conference entitled "Experience and lessons learned from the Western Balkans" led by Dyord Tatar.

Professor of Ferrara University Serena Forlatti (Italy), Professor of Leicester University Paul Beyrens (UK), ombudsman Elmira Suleymanova, senior investigator of military prosecutor's office in Azerbaijan, Counselor of Justice Ulvi Akhmedov, witness of the events in Khojaly, journalist Saria Muslimgyzy spoke and expressed their opinion about the Khojaly genocide at the second part entitled "Opportunities and Challenges in the South Caucasus", which was moderated by a renowned expert on international law, academician Hamza Gabor.

Representative of the European Union Jonas Johnson, former head of the OSCE Office in Baku, Ambassador Alexander Cornelissen (the Netherlands), counsellor of the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Hungary Anar Imanov spoke at the final part of the conference entitled "Responsibility of international forces in the Western Balkans and South Caucasus" led by former Deputy Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary Endre Erdos.

Ombudsman of Hungary Mate Szabo, the Hungarian and Azerbaijani MPs, representatives of the Foreign Ministry, the special coordinator of the Youth Forum of the Islamic Cooperation and a number of other participants also spoke at the conference.

Participants of an international conference were shown a documentary on the Khojaly genocide.

At the conference recommendations were made relating to the establishment of a working group consisting of experts on international criminal law, organization of their visits to Azerbaijan, the international legal assessment of the Khojaly genocide. Several international experts have expressed readiness for closer cooperation with Azerbaijan on this issue.

It is notable that for the first time during this conference the Khojaly tragedy was discussed on a par with genocide in Srebrenica, which is recognized by the international community as a crime. The conference's participants drew parallels between the two tragedies. Also demand was voiced that perpetrators of the Khojaly genocide should be prosecuted and brought before an international court.

The Embassy intends to publish the materials of the international conference in a book titled "Khojaly - Srebrenica: the tragic parallels".

The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb.26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. Some 487 civilians were disabled during the genocide. In addition, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown/.

<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh/1993732.html>

**Khojaly genocide victims commemorated in Ukraine  
(February 17, 2012)**

Khojaly genocide victims commemorated in Ukraine.

Khojaly massacre victims have been commemorated in Donetsk, Ukraine. The appeal to international organizations on “Khojaly month” was adopted at the event initiated by the Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation.

Khojaly massacre victims have been commemorated in Donetsk, Ukraine.

The appeal to international organizations on “Khojaly month” was adopted at the event initiated by the Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation, the Ukrainian Azerbaijani Youth Union, World Azerbaijanis Congress.

Officials of Donetsk province, activists of the Azerbaijani Diaspora and media outlets participated in the event.

Addressing the event, Ukrainian office of World Azerbaijanis' Congress, Mohlat Huseynov, told about vandalism of Armenian chauvinists. He described the mass killing of civilians in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly 20 years ago as crimes against humanity.

At the event participants were informed about the Justice for Khojaly campaign initiated by Vice-president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva.

Speakers at the event called the Khojaly tragedy not only as a crime against Azerbaijanis but also humanity.

The film “Khojaly Harayi” shot with the support of Heydar Aliyev Foundation was demonstrated following the event.

The Appeal on giving political and legal right to Khojaly genocide for the Parliament of Ukraine, OSCE, UN and other international organizations was adopted at the event.

<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/918252>

**Statement on 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Khojaly genocide made in US Congress  
(February 19, 2012)**

The co-chairmen of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus Bill Shuster and Dan Boren made a statement on the 20th anniversary of Khojaly tragedy, Director General of the Azerbaijani-American Council (AAC) Javid Huseynov told Trend.

The detailed information about the events in Khojaly was presented in the statement. The information spread by the world media on the issue was brought to their colleagues' attention. The statement stressed that the 20th anniversary of the tragedy reminds about the importance of resolving the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, as well as the unacceptability of preserving the status quo.

The statement also stressed that Azerbaijan is the important strategic partner of the United States.

The Congressmen expressed their condolences to Azerbaijan in connection with the events in Khojaly, urging their colleagues to revere memory of Khojaly Genocide victims.

The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb.26, 1992. More than 600 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. Some 487 civilians were disabled during the genocide. In addition, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. Armenian armed forces have occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan since 1992, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and 7 surrounding districts.

Azerbaijan and Armenia signed a ceasefire agreement in 1994. The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group - Russia, France, and the U.S. - are currently holding the peace negotiations.

Armenia has not yet implemented the U.N. Security Council's four resolutions on the liberation of the Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding regions.

<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh/1994034.html>

**Azerbaijani refugee demands recognition of Khojaly genocide  
in her letters to Presidents of Armenia and France  
(20 February 2012)**

Young Azerbaijani girl from Khojaly Zarifa Guliyeva wrote letters to presidents of Armenia and France Serzh Sargsyan and Nicolas Sarkozy demanding to recognize the Khojaly genocide.

"My name is Zarifa Guliyeva, an Azerbaijani girl from the ghost town of Khojaly in Karabakh. You must be familiar with Khojaly not only because you are a native of historical Azerbaijani town of Khankendi, which in Soviet times was renamed to Stepanakert. In addition, certainly, not because Khojaly is located near the historic town of Aghdam, which, in your own words, is "not your land." By the way, such assertion, made in 2009, in Yerevan, during a meeting with representatives of the Azerbaijani and Armenian intellectuals, did not stop you from renaming Aghdam to Acne," the letter to President Sargsyan says.

Zarifa Guliyeva expressed her confidence that President Sargsyan is aware that "Khojaly - is a town, where on February 26, 1992, as a result of the monstrous crimes carried out by the occupying Armenian forces, 613 people were killed and more than 1275 were taken prisoners, 150 people went missing, 487 became disabled".

Describing the events in Khojaly, Guliyeva appeals to President Sargsyan, "If you have any doubts about the choice of words describing such a crime against humanity, then I'll tell you the fact, that Khojaly is a sister town of the Czech Lidice, which during the Second World War was almost entirely wiped out by German Nazis. May I also remind you that international advocacy organization "Human Rights Watch" called the tragedy in Khojaly as "the largest massacre of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict."

According to this watchdog organization, the Armenian armed forces were directly responsible for the deaths of civilians."

"20 years have passed since this heinous crime, genocide against Azerbaijanis. 20 years - this is how old I am, Zarifa Guliyeva, a native of Khojaly. In Khojaly my family was almost entirely killed - my young brother, grandmother, uncle - a total of 22 members of my family. My family was brought up by my mother; she raised us and gave us the most important thing in life - love to my country and understanding the value of a human life. These values are given to us by a woman, whose four bullet and shrapnel wounds serve as a daily reminder of the actions of Armenian occupying forces.

These shrapnel pieces live in all of us, people of Khojaly, reminding us of the horrors of that night, the massacre committed by Armenian militants," the letter addressed to President Sargsyan says.

Appealing to the Armenian president Zarifa Guliyeva writes, "I know that you have two daughters, Anush and Satenik. They are future mothers. Now, ask yourself and your daughters: what was the fault of those 106 women and 63 children, killed by Armenian fascists in Khojaly? Would you or your daughters want someone from their family and friends to live through such a horrible fate? I read a book by a British journalist Thomas de Waal, "Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan through peace and war." One of the passages quoted: "Sarkisian's summation of what had happened, however, was more honest and more brutal: 'But I think the main issue was quite different. Before Khojali, the Azerbaijanis thought that they were joking with us; they thought that the Armenians were people who could not raise their hand against the civilian population. We were able to break that [stereotype]." Did you let your daughters read this book, Mr. Sargsyan? I do not think they will be proud of the fact that their father considers murdering women, children and the elderly as a good tool to make sure that we see Armenians as people, who do not believe in sacred values of humanism, benevolence, compassion, respected by all religions and nations of the world".

There is another moment in the same book by Thomas de Waal where it once again quotes you: "Asked about the taking of Khojali, the Armenian military leader Serzh Sarkisian said carefully, 'We don't speak loudly about these things'".

In her letter Guliyeva asks to give a fair assessment of the Khojaly genocide.

"20 years has passed since the Genocide of Azerbaijani civilians in Khojaly. I think it is time to speak out loud about this horrible crime, Mr. President. It would be the right thing to do if you give a fair assessment of the Khojaly genocide, pleaded guilty to the crimes of the Armenian militants that you were also a part of. I'm not asking you to repeat the outstanding, in terms of depth of repentance for a crime, committed by his people, act of Chancellor Willy Brandt of Germany, who on December 7, 1970, was on his knees before the monument to the victims of the Nazis in the Warsaw Ghetto, where Jews were taken away to their deaths in Treblinka and Auschwitz," the letter says.

The letter also asks to acknowledge responsibility of the Armenian side for perpetrating genocide of Azerbaijani civilians in Khojaly.

"I'm just asking you to acknowledge responsibility of the Armenian side for perpetrating genocide of Azerbaijani civilians in Khojaly. This step can be a radically new chapter in the settlement of Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. This move would be a good start in creating the atmosphere of trust between our countries and nations that was destroyed by the killers of the people of Khojaly. I am confident, that the world will give a fair assessment of the Genocide of Azerbaijani civilians in Khojaly. Likewise, I'm sure there is no eternal conflict and that the neighboring nations, sooner or later will live in peace and mutual trust. But it is up to you to see that it happens with or without your participation. Only you can decide to either go down in history as a politician, who was able to accept the responsibility for the mistakes of himself and his people and helped bring justice and peace between our nations, or someone, who feared to acknowledge the crime, but rather - preferred not to "speak loudly about these things", the letter says.

In her letter to French President Zarifa Guliyeva suggested him to make a choice - "whether to remain in history as a politician who helped the justice to triumph or as a person who was afraid to call these acts a crime and considered his interests above all".

"I am 20 years old. Exactly as many years passed from the day genocide was committed against the peaceful Azerbaijani population of Khojaly city - one of the most dreadful tragedies of the last century," Zarifa Guliyeva said in her letter to French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

"Are you familiar with the name - Khojaly? On February 26, 1992, as a result of a horrid crime committed by the aggressive Armenian armed forces in this ancient settlement of Azerbaijan, 613 people were killed, 1275 were taken prisoners of war, 150 missing, 487 were brutally mutilated. The only "fault" of these people was their Azerbaijani nationality. You tell me, if this is not GENOCIDE, then what is?", the letter says.

The letter goes on : "If you are having a hard time finding words to characterize this crime against humanity, I can tell you that Khojaly has become a sister city of the Lidice city of the Czech Republic - once practically razed to the ground by German fascists during the Second World War. This is a very instructive fact: two cities, which had shared the same destiny of facing the atrocities of a crime against humanity, became twin towns."

"I know that you are a happy husband and a father. Your beautiful wife Carla Bruni has blessed you with a daughter, named Julia, on October 19, 2011. I pray to God for this little girl to grow healthy and happy. She has every opportunity available to her. But I ask you to take into account the fact that among those perished in Khojaly by Armenian forces, there were 106 women and 63 children. Trust in my honesty when I say that I have been unable to find an answer to this question: I wonder what is more horrible?: Being killed from the hands of bloodthirsty executioners or living with a recognition that I will never be able to bring back my father, who died in Khojaly and remained there forever?! I believe, you as a father, can imagine what it means for a child to grow without a dad, to lose his support in life - one of his parents. Besides my father, my little brother, grandmother, and uncles were also killed in Khojaly. Overall, our family lost 22 members at that terrible night," the letter addressed to the French President says.

She writes: "We were brought up by our mother. She educated us and taught the most important values in life. We will never forget Khojaly, because four bullet wounds my mom received at that horrible night and the shell-splinters she still carries in her body are constant reminders. These splinters reduce my mother's life; they make her recall the horrors of Khojaly every day. These kinds of splinter wounds exist in our hearts - in the hearts of every Khojaly resident."

In her letter Zarifa writes to President Sarkozy that along with Azerbaijani journalist Chingiz Mustafayev, Russian TV reporter Yuri Romanov, who had visited the place of Khojaly tragedy, recalled the moment of arrival at the place of death of civilians as following : "I look through the illuminator of the helicopter and the unbelievably frightening sight that opens in front of my eyes literally traumatizes me. Bodies of dead people are lying on the yellow grass lawn at the shadowy foothills of a mountain, where pellets of snow and hoar-frosts deposited in winter are melting. All this vast area to the near horizon, littered with the corpses of women, old men and women, boys and girls of all ages, from infant to teenager. Eye pulls out of the mess of bodies, two figures - a grandmother and a little girl. Grandma, with a white head uncovered, lying face down next to the tiny girl in a blue jacket with a hood. The feet are somehow connected with barbed wire. The hands of the grandmother are also tied up. Both shot in the head. The last gesture of a small, four years old, the girl stretched out her arms to the dead grandmother. Stunned, I did not even think of the camera ..."

"I would really want to look into your eyes after you read these memoires. I believe in those eyes I would see tears and heartache of a brave person, who is capable of sharing other peoples' pain. Therefore I hope that

you will be able to provide worthy and fair assessment of the genocide, committed against the Azerbaijanis in Khojaly," the latter says.

In her letter Guliyeva expresses her desire to believe that Nicolas Sarkozy and the "Union for a Popular Movement" Party, headed by him, will initiate the discussion of the law on the recognition of the Khojaly genocide in the French Senate. By doing this you would be able to change the latest impression formed in Azerbaijan about you and refute the talks concerning your direct dependence on the Armenian Diaspora and lobby in the French Senate. You left this impression on the Azerbaijani people especially, after you initiated the adoption of the draft law intending to arrest and penalize those who do not consider the 1915 incidents during the Ottoman Empire as a genocide against Armenians," Zarifa writes.

"Presidents come and go, but it is the politicians who leave their names in history through their actions. Your personal initiative on fair assessment by the French Senate of those who committed the genocide against civilian Azerbaijan population in Khojaly will be a good opportunity for your name to remain in the history of Azerbaijani-French relations," she notes.

Understanding how tough this step will be, Zarifa also informs that the "Human Rights Watch" international human rights advocacy organization has described the Khojaly genocide as the "largest massacre to date in the Armenian-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict". According to this organization, the Armenian armed forces carry direct responsibility for the civilian deaths, she writes.

"Time goes on fast. It is entirely possible that 20 years on from the day I was deprived of the opportunity to see my native lands, 20 years after the Khojaly genocide, this crime against humanity will be known around the world. Thus, the decision is yours. You and only You can decide whether you want to remain in history as a politician who helped the justice to triumph or as a person who was afraid to call these acts a crime and considered his interests above all."

<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh/1994203.html>

**Unique work of french photographer devoted to Khojaly tragedy presented in Baku  
(February 20, 2012)**

An exhibition of photographs of French photographer Frederique Lengaigne dedicated to Khojaly tragedy was opened at the Museum Center of Baku on the 20th anniversary of Khojaly tragedy.

Exhibition "The road leading from the Khojaly" is organized by the Europe - Azerbaijan Society.

Chairman of European Azerbaijan Society Taleh Heydarov spoke about the Khojaly tragedy in his opening remarks.

"Today the world is given legal assessment to this tragedy. The main goal of our society is to inform the world of the reality of the Khojaly tragedy and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as a whole. In this regard we have implemented special projects, and this exhibition is one of them" Heydarov said.

Heydarov noted that a book about the Khojaly tragedy will be presented in the UK in the near future.

"Unique photos of Lengaigne, who has become a witness of the events in Aghdam were presented at this exhibition for the first time. Thanks to the cooperation with her we have the opportunity to provide these unique photos to the Azerbaijani public after 20 years. This exhibition shows only part of the 300 photographs dedicated to this tragedy, which also are a document of the terrible events of those days" Heydarov added.

Heydarov noted that, these photo facts will also be brought to the world society during exhibitions in Brussels, Strasbourg and Paris.

Frederique Lengaigne, who was head of photo department of the Reuters Information Department in 1992, in turn, said: "First you try just doing your job, but then you think about the tragedy, and even think that you are guilty of that, you take a photograph of it all, but can not help people. We shot it for a foreign audience in 1992, but 20 years later, these photos returned for your history,"

Lengaigne said she was convinced of the courage of the people of this region during the three days she spent in Aghdam.

"You see the horror of Khojaly tragedy on these pictures of women, children and old people. We can't remain silence about the crimes. The truth about them to convey to the world should be informed of truth about the tragedy," the head of the Yaxud In Unum society Patrick Ata Despois said.

Prominent public figures of Azerbaijan, MPs and representatives of the diplomatic corps participated in the event.

Armenian armed forces with the help of the 366th motor-rifling regiment occupied Azerbaijan's Khojaly city and committed genocide, killing hundreds of innocent people because of their ethnic background on February 26, 1992. As a result, 613 people were savagely killed, 487 were injured, and 1,275 people were taken into hostage. The fates of many of them are still unknown. After the 366th motor-rifling regiment's withdrawal from Khankendi, a major part of the military equipment owned by this military unit was transferred to the Armenian separatists.

**<http://en.trend.az/news/society/1994544.html>**

**TRT films documentary about Khojaly  
(February 20, 2012)**

TRT films documentary about Khojaly

Baku bureau of Turkey's TRT filmed a documentary "Hepimiz Hojaliliyiz" ("We all are from Khojaly").

TRT officials said the documentary shows the real face of Armenians who committed the most brutal massacre in the last hundred years and tells of the struggle for life, hopes and dreams of Khojaly population.

TRT representative Yuksel Deyercan said that the film was dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the tragedy. He noted that countries that give lessons of democracy to the world remained silent to the Khojaly genocide and the day will come when they understand their mistake.

The documentary film "Hepimiz Hojaliliyiz" will be shown on TRT Avaz at 13.05 on February 21. The program will be also shown again at 08.40 on February 26.

TRT 1, TRT Haber, TRT Turk and TRT Avaz will show a series of programs dedicated to the 20th anniversary of Khojaly genocide telling of Armenian barbarism to Turkey and the world.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/919438>**

**Victims of Khojaly massacre commemorated in Switzerland and Slovenia  
(February 20, 2012)**

Victims of Khojaly massacre commemorated in Switzerland and Slovenia

The victims of Khojaly massacre have been commemorated in Switzerland. The events was organized by the Switzerland-based Azerbaijani Culture Center as part of the Justice for Khojaly campaign, initiated by Leyla Aliyeva

The victims of Khojaly massacre have been commemorated in Switzerland. The events was organized by the Switzerland-based Azerbaijani Culture Center as part of the Justice for Khojaly campaign, initiated by Leyla Aliyeva, General Coordinator for Intercultural Dialogue of the Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC).

The event was held with the support of Azerbaijan's Diplomatic Mission to Switzerland to inform the world community about the true facts of Khojaly genocide.

Some 613 black balloons have been released into the air by the participants of the ceremony dressed in t-shirts with the inscription reading "Justice for Khojaly!" and photos of 63 children who were killed during the massacre.

An event to pay a tribute to the victims of Khojaly genocide and the annual meeting of the Slovenia-Azerbaijan Friendship Society was held in Slovenian city of Nova Gorica.

Development of relations between the two countries and the development of 2012 action plan were adopted at the meeting.

The program, and Slovenia, as well as economy, education, science, culture, tourism, sports and other fields is expected to implement joint projects. For this purpose, a number of specific projects were proposed by the embassy.

The participants of event in Nova Gorica stood for a minute's silence in memory of the victims of Khojaly tragedy.

The participants were briefed on Justice for Khojaly campaign, initiated by Leyla Aliyeva, General Coordinator for Intercultural Dialogue of the Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation. Every year in late February the Azerbaijani nation commemorates the bloody tragedy known as the Khojaly genocide.

An unprecedented massacre of hundreds of defenseless inhabitants of the small town of Khojaly in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan became one of the most heinous crimes against the Azerbaijani people.

On the night of February 25, 1992, the Armenian armed forces with the help of Russian troops carried out the seizure of Khojaly and razed the town to the ground. Following the occupation of Khojaly, a total of 613 innocent Azerbaijanis were massacred by invaders, which also annihilated whole families, captured 1,275 people, left 1,000 civilians maimed or crippled, with another 150 reported missing.

**[http://www.azertag.com/en/bloody\\_memory?page=2](http://www.azertag.com/en/bloody_memory?page=2)**

**Material on Khojaly genocide ready for sending to International Court  
(February 21, 2012)**

Files on the Khojaly genocide are ready for sending to the International Court, a member of the association 'Azerbaijani community of Nagorno-Karabakh', MP Rovshan Rzayev told Trend today. He said serious work had been conducted in this direction. "We will take deep and concrete measures in due time," he said.

The documents have been collected to determine those responsible for organising and committing the Khojaly genocide and contain the information on war criminals who are representatives of Armenia as well as commanding and officer staff of the 366th regiment of the Soviet Army who participated in Khojaly massacre.

Armenian armed forces with the help of the 366th motor-rifling regiment occupied Azerbaijan's Khojaly city and committed genocide, killing hundreds of innocent people because of their ethnic background on February 26, 1992.

As a result, 613 people were savagely killed, 487 were injured, and 1275 people were taken hostage. The fate of many of them is still unknown. After the regiment's withdrawal from Khankendi, a major part of the military equipment owned by this unit was transferred to Armenian separatists.

**<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh/1994720.html>**

**Conference on 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Khojaly genocide held in Pamukkale university, Turkey  
(February 21, 2012)**

Conference on 20th anniversary of Khojaly genocide held in Pamukkale University, Turkey

A conference dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide was held at the Pamukkale University in Denizli city of Turkey. The conferees commemorated memory of the Khojaly massacre victims and watch

Ankara, February 21 (AzerTAc). A conference dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide was held at the Pamukkale University in Denizli city of Turkey.

The conferees commemorated memory of the Khojaly massacre victims and watch a documentary narrating on this bloody tragedy.

Member of Azerbaijan Parliament Ganira Pashayeva said the culprits of tragedy today hold high posts in Armenia. Top officials of this country are among the culprits to bring to justice. The perpetrators of vandalism should be punished. The Kjojaly massacre was committed not only against the people of Azerbaijan, but also the entire mankind, she stressed.

The goal of the conference, Pashayeva said, was to make the community of the brotherly country aware of the Armenian atrocities committed 20 years ago in this Azerbaijani town. The parliaments of Pakistan and Mexico have already recognized the happenings as genocide and number of such countries is growing, she underlined.

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) Sinan Ogan too spoke of necessity of the works carried out for the massacre to be recognized as genocide by the legislative bodies of world countries.

<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/919542>

**Dutch schoolchildren commemorate Khojaly massacre`s victims  
(February 21, 2012)**

Pupils of Dutch schools attended the ceremony dedicated to Khojaly genocide and Azerbaijan in Assen, the Netherlands. Dutch schoolchildren presented a performance reflecting cruel murder of civilian residents.

Pupils of Dutch schools attended the ceremony dedicated to Khojaly genocide and Azerbaijan in Assen, the Netherlands.

Dutch schoolchildren presented a performance reflecting cruel murder of civilian residents and children in Azerbaijani city Khojaly 20 years ago.

The ceremony also featured demonstration of video on Azerbaijan`s history and culture and performance of Azerbaijani musicians living in the country, Firangiz Bagirova and Elkhan Rzayev. "Azerbaijan" song from Muslum Magomayev`s repertoire sung by local pupils aroused keen interest among Dutch audience.

According to the press service of the State Committee on Work with Diaspora, the event was attended by employees of Azerbaijan Embassy in the Netherlands, activists of public and Azerbaijani Diaspora there.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/919577>**

**Pakistan`s National University of Modern Languages hosts seminar on Khojaly genocide  
(February 21, 2012)**

Pakistan`s National University of Modern Languages hosts seminar on Khojaly genocide

The Pakistan`s National University of Modern Languages played host to a seminar dedicated to the 20th anniversary of Khojaly genocide. The seminar aimed to support international campaign “Justice for Khojaly” initiated by Leyla Aliyeva, vice-president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, General Coordinator of the Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC).

The event was attended by public figures of Pakistan, representatives of various universities of this country, representatives of diplomatic corps accredited in Pakistan. Chairman of Society of Asian Civilization, professor Z.A.Gureshi briefed the participants on the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and its results. The professor described Khojaly genocide the bloodiest stage of the conflict.

The other speakers also condemned the crimes committed by Armenians against Azerbaijanis. Azerbaijan`s Ambassador to Pakistan Dashgin Shikarov informed the attendees on the Armenia`s aggression against Azerbaijan. He thanked the Pakistani government for its supporting Azerbaijan`s position in Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/919922>

**Luhansk hosts remembrance ceremony on Khojaly tragedy  
(February 22, 2012)**

Luhansk hosts remembrance ceremony on Khojaly tragedy

A ceremony to remember the Khojaly genocide victims has taken place in Luhansk, Ukraine. The event was part of the “Month of Khojaly” in Ukraine.

The ceremony was co-organized by the Youth Forum of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and Azerbaijani Youth Union of Ukraine (OAMU).

Speakers at the event condemned the Khojaly genocide, and described it as one of the bloodiest crimes in human history.

The event featured the demonstration of a documentary on Karabakh produced by Azerbaijani and Ukrainian TV channels.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/920058>**

**Khojaly genocide victims commemorated in Serbia  
(February 22, 2012)**

Khojaly Genocide victims commemorated in Serbia

The Serbia-Azerbaijan Trade and Economy Chamber in Belgrade has hosted an event dedicated to the 20th anniversary of Khojaly genocide, initiated by Azerbaijan`s embassy to Serbia.

According to the embassy, the event brought together members of the chamber, Azerbaijanis living and studying in the country and journalists.

Speaking to the event, advisor of the embassy Gabil Kocharli said, “Khojaly tragedy is the unforgettable, bloody and horrible event”.

He stressed Armenian vandalism committed in Khojaly “can be placed in the same line with Katyn, Hiroshima and other tragedies”.

Kocharli has also spoke of ethnic cleansing policy pursued against Azerbaijan and its people. Finally, the attendees watched a documentary entitled “The Khojaly genocide”.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/920213>**

**Istanbul hosts photo exhibition on Khojaly genocide  
(February 22, 2012)**

Istanbul hosts photo exhibition on Khojaly genocide

Bahcesehir University in Istanbul hosted a photo exhibition of Funda Iyce Tuncel depicting works on Khojaly genocide.

Azerbaijan`s Consul General in Istanbul Hasan Zeynalov, prorector of the Bahcesehir University Ali Gungor, members of Azerbaijan`s parliament Elman Mammadov, Malahat Ibrahimgizi and Azay Guliyev made speeches at the event.

The attendees were informed on the history and reasons of Khojaly genocide.

Consul General Zeynalov underlined that Azerbaijan has actively protested against the bill of France`s Senate on criminalizing the denial of the so-called Armenian genocide.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/920233>**

**Rally held in Odessa in connection with 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Khojaly genocide  
(February 22, 2012)**

The 20th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide was marked by protest march in the Ukrainian city of Odessa.

Representatives of the Ukrainian, Moldavian, Jewish, Turkish and Tatar youth participated in a protest march, co-organized by the Association of the Azerbaijani Youth of Ukraine and the Youth Forum of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Activists of the protest march distributed booklets with information on the atrocities committed by the Armenians in Khojaly in the central streets and squares of Odessa under the slogan “The Armenians have to answer to history for the cruelties procreated in Khojaly”.

613 black balloons were released to the air, on which words “Justice for Khojaly” were written, called for justice the world community and international organizations.

Speaking at the remembrance ceremony the President of the Association Anar Tahirov and chairman of the Association's Odessa organization Samir Aliyev brought the facts of numerous crimes, genocide, ethnic cleansing and aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan, stressing that they can be traced over the past two centuries.

The event participants watched a documentary on Khojaly genocide, narrating about the atrocities the Armenians committed against children, women and elderly people in frosty February night. Consul General of Turkey in Odessa Argan Hussein Argani, Chairman of the All-Ukrainian Youth Organization Anton Daritchenko, Chairman of the Moldovan youth organization Andrew Tetyu and others called the historical injustice that after 20 years the international community has not given the legal and political assessment of this tragedy.

Finally, an appeal to the Parliament of Ukraine and international organizations was adopted to the Parliament of Ukraine and international organizations to give legal and political assessment of the genocide committed by Armenians against Azerbaijanis in Khojaly.

<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/920286>

**Khojaly victims remembered in Aktau  
(February 24, 2012)**

The Azerbaijan`s Consulate General in Aktau has organized a commemorative ceremony to mark the 20th anniversary of the Khojaly massacre. The event brought together students, officials of “Friendship” Azerbaijan`s Cultural Center in Mangistau Region and journalists. Participants viewed an exhibition and familiarized themselves with the books about the

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The event brought together students, officials of “Friendship” Azerbaijan`s Cultural Center in Mangistau Region and journalists.

Participants viewed an exhibition and familiarized themselves with the books about the tragedy.

Azerbaijan`s Consul General in Aktau Rashad Mammadov briefed the event participants about the Khojaly massacre.

He also spoke of the Justice for Khojaly campaign, initiated by the Vice-President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, General Coordinator of the Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Intercultural Dialogue, Leyla Aliyeva.

Chairman of “Friendship” Azerbaijan`s Cultural Center in Mangistau Region Yusif Guliyev spoke of Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan.

Participants were informed about [www.justiceforkhocaly.org](http://www.justiceforkhocaly.org) website and watched a documentary on the Khojaly tragedy.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/920901>**

**Book on Khojaly genocide in German language presented  
(February 24, 2012)**

The Sabail District Local Authorities hosted a presentation of the book on Khojaly genocide by the head of Germany`s Magdeburg Market Economy Institute, Rolf Kunsch.

The event was attended by MPs, public figures, German visitors and media representatives.

The attendees saw a photo gallery and book exhibition on the genocide.

Sabail District Executive Asif Asgarov spoke of the importance of raising awareness of the world community on Khojaly events. He described Rolf Kunsch`s book as an `important` step in terms of popularizing realities about this genocide.

Speaking at the event, author of the book Rolf Kunsch said the book would be distributed in all schools and universities in Germany. The main goal is to educate the German people on Khojaly genocide.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/920905>**

**Tajikistan mourns Khojaly massacre victims  
(February 24, 2012)**

Azerbaijan`s Embassy to Tajikistan has organized a remembrance event marking the 20th anniversary of the Khojaly massacre. The event brought together employees of the Tajikistan Foreign Ministry, ambassadors, representatives of international organizations, members of Azerbaijani diaspora and

Azerbaijan`s Embassy to Tajikistan has organized a remembrance event marking the 20th anniversary of the Khojaly massacre.

The event brought together employees of the Tajikistan Foreign Ministry, ambassadors, representatives of international organizations, members of Azerbaijani diaspora and journalists.

Azerbaijan`s charge d`affaires in Tajikistan Ilham Zamanov informed participants about the Khojaly tragedy.

Zamanov also spoke of the Justice for Khojaly campaign.

A book on the Khojaly massacre published by the Embassy in Russian and English languages was distributed to the event participants.

Participants watched a documentary on the tragedy.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/920926>**

**Members of Lithuanian Seimas appeal to European Parliament on 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Khojaly tragedy  
(April 24, 2012)**

Twenty-one members of the Lithuanian Seimas, including Emanuelis Zingeris, Egidijus Vareikis and Arunas Valinskas have appealed to the European Parliament on the 20th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy.

The parliamentarians underlined they share the Azerbaijani people`s deep sorrow. They expressed regret over the fact that unlike the perpetrators of the crimes in the territory of Yugoslavia, who had been punished, those who committed the Khojaly massacre have not yet received their punishment.

The members of Lithuanian Seimas drew attention of the European parliamentarians to the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, describing the European Parliament resolution of 20 May 2010 (2216) as important. The Lithuanian parliamentarians pointed out they back moral and political assessment of the Armenian aggressors` acts, which was reflected in the document, and support the immediate implementation of the principles of the resolution.

The Seimas members expressed hope that the European Parliament would give a political and legal assessment to the Khojaly tragedy and these bloody events would be accepted as part of the European historical memory.

The Lithuanian parliamentarians expressed hope that the requirements of the resolution N 2216 would be fulfilled seriously to restore historical justice.

**(AzerTAc)  
Vilnius**

**Statement on Khojaly genocide made at Canadian Parliament  
(June 6, 2012)**

Member of the Canadian Federal Parliament from the ruling Conservative Party, Ed Holder made a statement on the Khojaly genocide at a meeting of the House of Commons.

The statement indicates that the Khojaly massacre, committed by Armenia against the Azerbaijani people 20 years ago, is known in Canada, and this tragic date was marked in this country.

The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on Feb. 26, 1992. Some 613 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

**<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh/2034422.html>**

**Azerbaijan`s Consulate General in Aktau launches “Khojaly genocide, Justice for Khojaly” website  
(February 2, 2013)**

Azerbaijan`s Consulate General in Aktau has launched “Khojaly genocide, Justice for Khojaly” ([www.xocali.kz](http://www.xocali.kz)) website with the aim of increasing awareness of the Kazakh society on realities of Armenia`s military aggression against Azerbaijan, particularly the Khojaly genocide.

The website features history of Karabakh region and resettlement of Armenians in Karabakh. It also highlights Armenia`s military aggression against Azerbaijan. The website also features photo and video sections on Khojaly tragedy.

**Tunisian newspaper publishes article on Khojaly tragedy  
(February 6, 2013)**

The article contains the facts on the murdering of Khojaly residents by Armenians on February 26, 1992.

The article informs on national leader Heydar Aliyev's activities to bring the truth on this massacre to the international community, noting that the Armenian Armed Forces and 366th regiment of the Soviet Union committed this crime against peaceful citizens of Azerbaijan.

The author highlights numerous efforts of the Azerbaijani state and government to solve the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh conflict peacefully and within international principles.

**US congressman: Khojaly tragedy is crime against humanity  
(February 7, 2013)**

Bill Shuster, Congressman of the House of Representatives from Pennsylvania made a speech on the Khojaly genocide at a meeting of congress. In his speech Bill Shuster said this month will mark the 21st anniversary of that devastating and heartbreaking day: "Sadly, today there is little attention or interest paid

Bill Shuster, Congressman of the House of Representatives from Pennsylvania made a speech on the Khojaly genocide at a meeting of congress.

In his speech Bill Shuster said this month will mark the 21st anniversary of that devastating and heartbreaking day: "Sadly, today there is little attention or interest paid to the plight of Khojaly outside of Azerbaijan. However, one of our greatest strengths as elected officials is the opportunity to bring to light truths that are little known and command recognition. As a friend of Azerbaijan, I am proud to remind my colleagues that we must never forget the tragedy that took place in Khojaly. At the time, the Khojaly tragedy was widely documented by the international media, including the Boston Globe, Washington Post, New York Times, Financial Times, and many other European and Russian news agencies.

Khojaly, a town in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, now under the control of Armenian forces, was the site of the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians. With a population of approximately 7,000, Khojaly was one of the largest urban settlements of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. According to Human Rights Watch and other international observers the massacre was committed by the ethnic Armenian armed forces, reportedly with the help of the Russian 366th Motor Rifle Regiment. Human Rights Watch described the Khojaly Massacre as "the largest massacre to date in the conflict" over Nagorno-Karabakh. In a 1993 report, the watchdog group stated "there are no exact figures for the number of Azeri civilians killed because Karabakh Armenian forces gained control of the area after the massacre" and "while it is widely accepted that 200 Azeris were murdered, as many as 500-1,000 may have died."

He stressed that Azerbaijan had been a strong strategic partner and friend of the United States. "The tragedy of Khojaly was a crime against humanity and I urge my colleagues to join me in standing with Azerbaijanis as they commemorate this tragedy," Shuster added.

**Romanian Parliament condemns occupation of Azerbaijani lands  
and atrocities committed by Armenians in Khojaly  
(February 14, 2013)**

A faction of the Liberal Democratic Party voiced a political statement entitled the "Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" in the Romanian Parliament, a statement released by the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Romania on Thursday said.

This political statement was made in Parliament by the deputy of the faction Lucian Militaru.

In his speech, the MP touched on the history of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and informed that currently, 20 percent of Azerbaijani territories are under Armenian occupation.

Highlighting the massacre of Azerbaijanis perpetrated on February 25-26, 1992 in the town of Khojaly, Militaru stressed the importance of recognition by the international community of this act as a crime against humanity.

The Romanian MP also noted the need of demanding implementation of four UN Security Council resolutions imposed on Armenia, providing for complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from Azerbaijani territories.

According to him, given all of the aforementioned, it is important to recognize and support at the international level territorial integrity, sovereignty and inviolability of the borders of Azerbaijan by member countries of the international community.

The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. Armenian armed forces have occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan since 1992, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts.

Azerbaijan and Armenia signed a ceasefire agreement in 1994. The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group - Russia, France and the U.S. - are currently holding peace negotiations.

Armenia has not yet implemented the U.N. Security Council's four resolutions on the liberation of the Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding regions.

<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh/2119725.html>

**US legislators to commemorate Khojaly victims  
(February 15, 2013)**

US Senator Richard Blumenthal and Congressman Louise Slaughter have responded to a Khojaly appeal by the Turkic community (Azerbaijan-American Council, Azerbaijan Society of America, Pax Turcica) of America.

Blumenthal promised to assist the reviewing of the US legislative act on this issue and to study the opportunities for restoration of the peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Congressman Slaughter in turn thanked the Turkic diaspora in the U.S. for attracting the attention of the society to the massacre.

This tragic event was the bloodiest action in the Nagorno-Karabakh war, she wrote in his letter.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1056544>**

**Azerbaijani Embassy in Moldova issues statement on Khojaly massacre  
(February 16, 2013)**

Azerbaijani Embassy in Moldova has issued a statement on Khojaly tragedy. The document provides information about the bloodiest page in the history of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict - the Khojaly genocide committed by the Armenian armed forces on February 26, 1992.

The document says that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which began in February 1988 when Karabakh Armenians began demonstrating in their capital, Stepanakert (Khankendi), in favor of unification with the Armenian republic, was triggered by the open support of the ruling circles of the Armenian SSR and the tacit consent and inaction of the central authorities of the Soviet Union.

According to the Memorial Human Rights Center, Human Rights Watch and other international observers, the massacre was committed by the ethnic Armenian armed forces, reportedly with help of the Russian 366th Motor Rifle Regiment, apparently not acting on orders from the command. The death toll provided by Azerbaijani authorities is 613 civilians, including 106 women and 63 children. The event became the largest massacre in the course of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

According to international observers, soldiers and officers of 366th regiment took part in the attack on Khojaly. Memorial called for investigation of the facts of participation of CIS soldiers in the military operations in the region and transfer of military equipment to the sides of the conflict. Soon after the massacre, in early March 1992, the regiment was withdrawn from Nagorno-Karabakh. Paratroopers evacuated the personnel of the regiment by helicopter, but over 100 soldiers and officers remained in Stepanakert (Khankendi) and joined the Armenian forces, including the commander of the 2nd battalion major Seyran Ohanyan, who currently serves as a Minister of Defense of Armenia.

Actions of the Armenians and their accomplices involved in the tragedy of Khojaly, was a gross violation of human rights and the cynical disregard of international legal acts such as the the Geneva Convention, 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 on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict and acts of the international law.

Annually, February 26 is marked as a Day of Khojaly genocide in Azerbaijan.

Khojaly residents became refugees and took temporary refuge in the cities and regions of Azerbaijan. Since 1992 they are waiting for fair solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict which will put an end to the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan. They appeal to the peoples of the world, states and international organizations to protect the truth and justice, condemn facts of terrorism and ethnic cleansing committed in Khojaly.

"The perpetrators and organizers of the Khojaly massacre should be punished. There can not be a crime without punishment. The 20th century witnessed many bloody pages. Khojaly tragedy in their series is one of the worst. All who have committed this terrible crime one day will answer for all before the court of history. History remembers everything!" the document says.

The document was distributed among all branches of the Moldovan authorities, including the diplomatic corps accredited in Chisinau, NGOs and the media of this country.

<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1056910>

**Turkish cities host conferences on Khojaly massacre  
(February 18, 2013)**

Conferences marking the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide were arranged in Kars and Iğdır cities of Turkey.

The conference held in Kars saw speeches by deputy of the Milli Majlis Aydin Mirzazade, Azerbaijan`s consul general Aykhan Suleymanov, Turkish parliamentarians Sinan Oğun, Professor Yusuf Halaçoğlu and Kars Mayor Nevzat Bozkuş. The speakers highlighted history and consequences of the Khojaly tragedy, as well as atrocities by Armenians committed in Iğdır and Van.

Another conference attended by Azerbaijani parliamentarians Ganira Pashayeva and Aydin Mirzazade was held in Iğdır.

The speakers spoke of the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, especially Khojaly massacre, and expressed gratitude to their Turkish counterparts for the support.

“The Khojaly massacre is a crime against humanity and the international community must give a legal assessment to the tragedy.”

Turkish parliamentarians Sinan Oğun and Yusuf Halaçoğlu touched upon the promotion of awareness of the Khojaly and other genocides on the international scene.

The event featured a photo exhibition on the massacre, and books on Garadagly massacre were distributed among the participants.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1057384>**

**Jordan`s Al-Hayat newspaper publishes article on 21st anniversary of Khojaly tragedy  
(February 19, 2013)**

Jordan-based the Al-Hayat newspaper has published Azerbaijani ambassador Sabir Agabayov`s article on the 21st anniversary of Khojaly tragedy.

The diplomat writes in the article about the history of Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, massacres committed by Armenians against Azerbaijanis in 1905, 1907, 1918, 1948 and 1953. The ambassador also touches upon the consequences of Armenia`s military aggression against Azerbaijan after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Hajibayov condemns the fact that official Yerevan has not yet fulfilled four resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council demanding withdrawal of Armenian armed forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and describes this as an international injustice. The ambassador calls the atrocities committed by Armenians in Khojaly as a crime against humanity. He also recalls a resolution adopted at the 7th gathering of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of Islamic Conference which recognizes the Khojaly tragedy as a crime against the humanity. The diplomat also highly appreciates the fact that the Pakistani Senate`s committee on foreign relations recognized the Khojaly massacre as a genocide committed by Armenia against Azerbaijanis, adding that other Muslim countries should take a similar step.

The ambassador also thanks the Jordan government on behalf of Azerbaijan for supporting his country`s position on settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1057612>**

**Khojaly tragedy`s 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary commemorated in Kars  
(February 19, 2013)**

The Nationalist Movement Party`s (MHP) provincial branch in Kars, Turkey, has organized an event to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy.

The event brought together parliamentarians, Azerbaijanis living in Kars, students and teachers of the Kars University.

The event featured a documentary on the Khojaly genocide. Opening the event, member of MHP`s central board Maharram Yildiz called the Khojaly massacre one of the greatest tragedies in history.

Member of Azerbaijan`s parliament Aydin Mirzazade spoke about the consequences of Armenia`s aggressive policy against his country and history of the Khojaly genocide.

Members of the Turkish parliament from MHP Sinan Ogan and Yusuf Halacoğlu described the Khojaly tragedy as a crime against humanity.

Azerbaijan`s consul general in Kars Aykhan Suleymanov also participated in the event.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1057615>**

**National public awareness campaign on Khojaly genocide launched in USA  
(February 19, 2013)**

A national public awareness campaign was launched by the Azerbaijan America Alliance to educate Americans about the Khojaly genocide, the website Heraldonline reported on Tuesday.

The campaign started on Feb.18, when several multimedia projects aimed at educating U.S. citizens about the Khojaly genocide were launched.

The multimedia campaign's biggest impact will be felt in Washington, D.C., and New York City, where hundreds of posters with the headline 'KHOJALY...A Human Tragedy Against Azerbaijan' will be seen in subway stations, bus stops and on buses and on stationary and mobile billboards, Heraldonline reported.

The National Mall in Washington and Union Station, Times Square and the United Nations in New York are several of the many heavily trafficked and iconic locations targeted by the campaign

The public awareness campaign will last for several weeks and be seen by millions of Americans.

President Obama, the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Congress and the American public are being asked to learn more about the Khojaly tragedy and Azerbaijan, a friend and ally of the U.S. located in a very challenging and geo-politically important part of the world, Washington Post reported.

On Feb. 25-26 February, 1992, Armenian occupation forces together with the 366th infantry regiment of Soviet troops stationed in Khankendi (previously called Stepanakert) committed an act of genocide towards the population of Azerbaijani Khojaly town.

Some 613 people were killed including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were killed, 130 children lost one parent and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1275 innocent residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

**<http://en.trend.az/regions/scaucasus/azerbaijan/2121253.html>**

**Colombian parliamentarian sends letter to Azerbaijani leadership over Khojaly genocide  
(February 19, 2013)**

Member of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Columbian Parliament Alexandra Piraquive has sent a letter to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Parliament Speaker Oqtay Asadov expressing the solidarity of the Columbian people in connection with the Khojaly genocide, spokesman for the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry Elman Abdullayev said at a briefing today.

"The letter also expresses deep condolences to the Azerbaijani people in connection with the Khojaly genocide," Abdullayev said.

In the letter, the Colombian senator stressed the importance of preventing such a tragedy in the future, he said.

Abdullayev said that earlier, by its decision, the Columbian Senate condemned the Khojaly genocide and the perpetrators of the tragedy.

In April 2012 the Columbian Senate took a decision over the occupation of Azerbaijani territories and recognised Khojaly events as genocide.

"The number of countries recognising the Khojaly genocide is increasing," he said. "There is no doubt that their number will continue to increase. Perpetrators of this tragedy against humanity will respond to Azerbaijan and the world community and this is one of directions of Baku's foreign policy."

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**<http://en.trend.az/regions/scaucasus/azerbaijan/2121287.html>**

**Egyptian newspaper “Youm7” writes about Khojaly genocide  
(February 19, 2013)**

Egypt-based “Youm7” newspaper has published an article on the Khojaly genocide. The article was published on the basis of a statement of the Azerbaijani Embassy in Egypt.

The author of the article describes the massacre committed by the Armenian armed forces and 366 motor-infantry regiment of former USSR against innocent people of Azerbaijan as one of the most horrible tragedies. The article says realities about the Khojaly tragedy were spread widely in the world. Legislative bodies of several countries have already given political and legal assessment to this genocide. The Khojaly tragedy was described as a crime against humanity in the final document adopted in the summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference held in February 2-7 in Cairo. Heads of state and government of OIC member states called the international community in the document to recognize the Khojaly tragedy as genocide.

The article goes on to say that Armenia, not honoring norms and principles of international law, pursues the policy of aggression and ethnic cleansing. The full text of the article is available on <http://youm7.com/News.asp?NewsID=950258>.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1058113>**

**Official press of Ukrainian publishes article about Khojaly genocide  
(February 20, 2013)**

The state information agency Ukrinform published a material on ‘Khojaly tragedy-crime against humanity’ in Ukrainian and Russian languages on 19 February.

According to the news service for the Azerbaijani embassy in Ukraine, the material speaks about the atrocities committed by Armenians against the people of Azerbaijan, places materials of the world press about the atrocities of Armenians against Azerbaijanis with special cruelty, noted the recognition of the Khojaly tragedy as genocide by a great number of states.

The material is accompanied with the photos made by foreign, including Armenian photographers. The material voices hope for the fulfillment of the resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council in relation to the occupied Azerbaijani lands.

The indicated material is available here.

**[http://www.ukrinform.ua/ukr/news/hodgalinska\\_tragediya\\_\\_\\_zlochyn\\_proti\\_lyudstva\\_1798541](http://www.ukrinform.ua/ukr/news/hodgalinska_tragediya___zlochyn_proti_lyudstva_1798541)**

**[http://www.ukrinform.ua/rus/news/hodgalinskaya\\_tragediya\\_\\_\\_prestuplenie\\_protiv](http://www.ukrinform.ua/rus/news/hodgalinskaya_tragediya___prestuplenie_protiv)**

**<http://www.news.az/articles/politics/76858>**

**Khojaly survivors address world community and international organizations  
(February 20, 2013)**

The population of Khojaly has addressed to the peoples of the world, the United Nations, the Council of Europe, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe over the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy.

The appeal says, [AzerTAj](#) reports.

'We, the live witnesses of the massacre, committed by the Armenian nationalists in the Khojaly city of Nagorno Karabakh region of Azerbaijan on 26 February 1992, again address the United Nations, Council of Europe, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as the world nations on the 20th anniversary of the tragedy and urge the progressive community, everyone who has love for a human in his heart, not to remain indifferent to that crime of genocide against humanity.

Over the past two centuries Armenian nationalists and extremist circles for fulfillment of the absurd idea about 'Great Armenia' at the cost of the historical Azerbaijani lands with the help of their foreign patrons have been consistently carrying out the occupation of Azerbaijani lands and to achieve this cruel goal they regularly committed such crimes as the inhumane terrorist acts and massacres, deportation and genocide.

Khojaly genocide claimed 613 lives, over 1000 civilians were wounded and became disabled, 1275 were taken captives. The fate of 150 remains unknown yet. Among the killed are 106 women, 63 children, 70 elderly people. 76 of those who became disabled are underage girls and boys.

With a feeling of deep regret, we would like to bring to your attention that the list of such disasters as Khatin, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Songmi, Lidize that are considered the most terrible tragedies of the 20th century was enlarged by the Khojaly genocide.

Unfortunately, the support of the aggressor and approach to the historical reality and modern political processes from the position of double standards are the bitter realities of our time. All the same, the Armenian lie is already being exposed on the world level, the world community sees and recognizes the realities of Azerbaijan. Over the past years the parliaments and other influential international organizations of a number of peace-loving countries recognized the Khojaly genocide as a crime against humanity. We are sure that this process and the campaign of Justice for Khojaly will continue until justice wins.

We once again urge the world community to support the truth and justice for the sake of the future fate of our unstable world, say a decisive 'no' to the military aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan, its unfounded territorial claims, give the objective political and legal assessment to the cycle of crimes, committed against our people including the Khojaly genocide.

The message was adopted at the meeting of displaced persons from Khojaly held in Ashaghy Agjakand settlement of Goranboy'.

<http://www.news.az/articles/politics/76849>

**ASAIF launches online campaign of appealing White House  
(February 20, 2013)**

ASAIF has launched an online campaign of appealing the White House.

The campaign aims to prevent Armenian allegations and suspicions regarding the White House web petition on the Khojaly genocide, Gun.Az reports.

"We believe that allegations of some Armenian news sources and diaspora organisations regarding the success of two White House on-line petitions are a part of a continued groundless campaign to obscure the realities of the Khojaly Massacre and the illegal occupation of Azerbaijani lands.

These two issues remain most pressing within the Azerbaijani community at home and in the United States—it is hardly surprising that it took just over two weeks to reach the necessary number of signatures to warrant a response.

We would also like to remind that the White House website has in place the necessary security measures to prevent mass voting, spamming and any other intervention in the process.

The 123,000 and counting signatures on the Khojaly petition is a call to the Obama administration to follow the example of state legislatures in Massachusetts, Texas, New Jersey and others and issue a proclamation acknowledging this most heinous crime against civilian population.

These initiatives will help deliver justice to families and friends of the victims and establish that such acts must not and shall not be tolerated.

We supported this initiative in order to stop the policy of double standards and to demand from the United States to make its position clear on the illegal occupation of 20% of Azerbaijani lands and respond to the plight of the one million internally displaced persons in Azerbaijan.

United States government must give voice to the four UN resolutions ordering the immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from Azerbaijani territory in order to bring peace to a region.

Being a dedicated supporter of human rights and a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, the United States government must make clear to the government of Armenia that all efforts must be made to stop the practice of ethnic cleansing and to remove its occupational forces within the fixed time-table.

This step will follow by the restoration of communications, return of refugees and internally displaced persons and creation of conditions for peaceful coexistence of Azerbaijanis and Armenians in the Nagorno-Karabakh region within the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

It is abundantly clear that the rising tide of recognition and awareness is a source of distress to the perpetrators and supporters of these acts of violence against peaceful peoples. We would like to thank all those who made their voice heard with this campaign and call the White House to issue a swift response to two petitions," ASAIF says in a press release.

**<http://www.news.az/articles/karabakh/76855>**

**Azerbaijani youths of Lithuania address the White House  
(February 20, 2013)**

The Azerbaijani Youth of Lithuania (AYOL) organization has addressed the White House.

Armenian diaspora organizations have claimed before the White House that the petition on the Khojaly genocide was invalid and votes for the petitions were allegedly scored with the pressure on youth unions, Gun.Az reports.

"We, Azerbaijani youths living in Lithuania have addressed the White House and noted that we have not received instruction from any structure," the organizations says.

"We consider the US a state known for freedom of speech in the world and principles of justice. And we believe that you will give a correct legal assessment to the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the Khojaly tragedy," the address

**<http://www.news.az/articles/society/76831>**

**US House of Representatives speaker urges to commemorate Khojaly victims  
(February 20, 2013)**

Speaker John Boehner of the United State House of Representatives has urged the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House to commemorate the victims of the Khojaly massacre.

He presented a memorial document to the New Mexico Senate and called on the legislators to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy, Gun.Az reports.

The request was presented to the Congress's Foreign Relations Committee for consideration.

This is the first time that the speaker of the US House of Representatives advises to commemorate the Khojaly victims.

**<http://www.news.az/articles/karabakh/76878>**

**Lithuania hosts presentation of film about Khojaly tragedy  
(February 21, 2013)**

Largest movie theatre in Lithuania premiered documentary film about Khojaly tragedy.

On 19 February, the largest movie theatre in Lithuania - Vingis premiered documentary Endless Corridor of Lithuanian and Scandinavian documentary film makers who presented an hour journalistic investigation of the Khojaly tragedy.

According to the Lithuanian coordination group of campaign Justice for Khojaly, this work became the first documentary on the subject, shot by foreign documentary film makers.

The premiere was attended by representatives of the leading electronic and print media in Lithuania, members of parliament, representatives of the government and the presidential administration, the diplomatic corps, including Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Lithuania Hasan Mammadzade, and representatives of the local film elite.

**<http://www.news.az/articles/politics/76901>**

**Khojaly memorial presentation held at Columbia University  
(February 21, 2013)**

On February 19, 2013, a presentation titled "Nagorno-Karabakh: Refugees, Atrocities and Collective Memories" was hosted at the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) in New York.

The event was organized by student groups at SIPA and the Columbia University School of Social Work, Humanitarian Affairs Working Group, Azerbaijani-American Council (AAC) and Azerbaijan Society of America (ASA).

Opening the presentation, AAC general director, Javid Huseynov, provided a brief overview of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. He highlighted the importance of mutual acknowledgment of the suffering of victims and refugees on both sides of the conflict. While in Azerbaijan, there has been a fair assessment of the 1988 Sumgait riots through the legal due process, in Armenia, there is persistent state-sponsored denial of the primary role of country's forces in the 1992 Khojaly Massacre. Dr. Huseynov presented the fragments of the March 1997 response by Human Rights Watch to Armenian Foreign Ministry, which reaffirmed the fact that Armenian forces deliberately targeted Azerbaijani civilians and that, unlike claimed by Armenia, there was no evidence that Azerbaijani forces obstructed the flight of those civilians.

AAC executive outlined that faced with Armenia's dissolute denial of the 1992 Khojaly Massacre, in the last few years, Azerbaijani-American organizations focused on increasing awareness of U.S. elected officials, media and academia about this war crime. Consequently, in the last two years, the states of Texas, Georgia, New Mexico and Arkansas recognized the Khojaly Massacre and the role of Armenian forces in it via full-house legislative resolutions, while Massachusetts and New Jersey issued formal proclamations to the effect.

Speaking further, American war correspondent and the Montana State University professor, Thomas Goltz, shared his experiences as a witness and a first reporter who brought the news of what happened in Khojaly to the U.S. media. He outlined that due to the general sympathy towards Christian Armenians and stereotypes against Muslim Azerbaijanis at the time, it was difficult to convince Western audiences that it were Armenians slaughtering Azerbaijanis and not the other way around. Goltz then proceeded to present his short documentary film featuring interviews with Western journalists, experts and witnesses about the Khojaly Massacre.

During the subsequent question-and-answer session, Armenian students in the audience deviated from subject by asking rhetorical questions and making emotional speeches about the release of Ramil Safarov or the controversy surrounding Akram Aylisli's book "The Stone Dreams". Responding to them, AAC general director reminded about the 2001 hosting of Varoujan Garabedian, ASALA terrorist convicted for the 1983 bomb attack at the Paris Orly Airport and released from French prison, by Armenia's Prime-Minister and Mayor of Yerevan, indicating that high-level state reception and glorification of a convicted terrorist was indeed the case in Armenia, and not in Azerbaijan. Furthermore, the growing military sentiment in Azerbaijan is a natural consequence of Armenia's ongoing occupation of the fifth of Azerbaijan, the plight of a million Azerbaijani refugees and, finally, the Armenia's insensitive denial of the 1992 Khojaly Massacre.

Students at Columbia University, representatives of Azerbaijani and Turkish communities and diplomatic missions in New York also attended and actively participated in the event. AAC and ASA express their special gratitude to Azerbaijani students at Columbia University, members of Azerbaijani Youth of North America (AYNA) Network, for leading the effort to organize this presentation.

<http://www.news.az/articles/politics/76914>

**French Pierre Thilloy composes classical work “Khojaly 613”  
(February 21, 2013)**

Famous French composer Pierre Thilloy has created a classical work named “Khojaly 613” which is dedicated to the Khojaly tragedy.

The work composed at the request of the European Azerbaijan Society (TEAS) receives its premiere on 21 February at Saint Roch in Paris, and then the concert is repeated on 26 February at St John’s Smith Square in London. The Orion Orchestra will be conducted by Laurent Petigirard.

Pierre Thilloy lived and worked in Azerbaijan. The new work by Thilloy combines western classical and Azerbaijani musical traditions.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1058878>**

**Odessa kicks off month of Khojaly  
(February 21, 2013)**

The Month of Khojaly designated by the Association of Azerbaijani Youth of Ukraine has begun with Odessa.

The event was attended by officials of the Odessa oblast administration, diplomats, representatives of Diaspora organizations of Turkish, Tatar, Jewish, German, Palestinian and other peoples, head of the Association Anar Tairov, Chairman of the Odessa branch of the Association Samira Aliyeva presented historical facts proving aggressive policy of Armenians in Azerbaijan over the past two centuries. They described unprecedented brutalities committed by Armenian armed forces on February 26, 1992 in Khojaly against children, women, old people as the logical continuation of the genocide policy committed against the people of Azerbaijan.

Participants of the event watched the documentary about the Karabakh conflict prepared by TV channels of Azerbaijan and Ukraine.

Deputy Consul General of Turkey in Odessa Melik Demirtas stated that official Yerevan, which is the immediate instigator of the Khojaly genocide, and the incumbent leadership of Armenia must stand trial in the international court.

Journalist Valeriy Bulumenkrans described the Khojaly tragedy as one of the cruelest bloodshed ever committed in the history. He expressed regret that international organizations have not so far given a political and legal assessment to this outrage on humanity.

The participants made an appeal to international organizations urging them to legally and politically assess the Khojaly genocide.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1058702>**

**Khojaly genocide victims commemorated in Ukraine  
(February 21, 2013)**

The Azerbaijani Youth Organization of Mykolaiv region, Ukraine has held a commemorative event marking the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly massacre.

According to the State Committee on Work with Diaspora, the event participants were informed about the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

“In the wake of this conflict, Armenia has occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijani territories and more than one million Azerbaijanis were forcibly driven out from their original lands. The Khojaly genocide is a culmination of atrocities committed by Armenian military forces in Nagorno-Karabakh”.

The event saw speech by chairman of the Azerbaijani Youth Organization Samir Orujov.

The film on the Khojaly tragedy was demonstrated at the event.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1058793>**

**Religion leader addresses int'l organizations on Khojaly genocide  
(February 21, 2013)**

Chairman of the Caucasus Muslims Board Sheikh-ul-Islam Haji Allahshukur Pashazade has addressed the people all over the world, heads of state, parliaments and international organizations on the 21st anniversary of Khojaly genocide.

The message says that the world community is indifferent to the fact that the entire town – thousands of innocent, unarmed and defenseless residents of Khojaly underwent sudden and brutal attacks of Armenians, 613 people including the old, children and pregnant women were cruelly killed, 1275 people were taken hostages and subjected to severe torture and the bodies were abused, CMB told APA.

'It is regrettable and surprising that the humanity is inattentive to our calls and all international organizations are still keeping silence on this unprecedented crime.'

Pashazade urged the world community to call the massacre committed by the terrorist state by its name: "Addressing the heads of state, parliaments, people and international organizations, I call on them to give principal legal assessment to aggression and atrocities of Armenian extremists against the Azerbaijani people and recognize Khojaly tragedy as genocide against humanity."

**<http://www.news.az/articles/politics/76912>**

**Embassy in South Africa sends information on Khojaly tragedy to state structures  
(February 21, 2013)**

The Azerbaijani Embassy in South Africa in connection with the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy has sent information about this tragedy to public and government agencies in the country and accredited diplomatic missions and international organizations.

According to the Azerbaijani diplomatic mission, along with this, the website of local NGO African friends of Azerbaijan, carrying out its activities in South Africa, provides information, including photos and videos dedicated to the Khojaly tragedy.

**<http://www.news.az/articles/politics/76919>**

**Khojaly massacre deserves recognition  
(February 22, 2013)**

News.Az reprints from The Hill article "Khojaly Massacre deserves recognition" by Adil Baguirov.

America is historically widely known and recognized as a safe haven, for refugees, migrants and all those moving from the "Old World" and elsewhere in pursuit of justice, stable legal and political environment and greater economic opportunities. After all, the majority of people do not just venture far and abroad out of good life.

One of the calamities that led to generations of people to emigrate to America in search of a better life is war and fighting in their birthplace — including war crimes, massacres, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing. One such horror, the biggest war crime at the time in all of Europe, the Khojaly Massacre, happened on the night of Feb. 25, 1992, when the armed forces of Armenia, led by its current president and defense minister, committed a crime against humanity in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly, massacring nearly 800 of mostly ethnic Azerbaijanis as well as Meskheti (Ahiska) Turks, Kurds and others.

Later, the current president of Armenia would cynically admit that Khojaly Massacre "broke a stereotype" that the civilian population was somehow not to be touched by the Armenian army in its military aggression against Azerbaijan. Other Armenian military participants recounted the gruesome details, while international media and human rights groups have condemned the war crime, although no one has been punished so far and all perpetrators are still at large.

It is precisely this crime against humanity that is annually commemorated by the politically growing Azerbaijani-American community, who hold a multitude of events throughout the country to honor those innocent civilians, increase awareness of the major injustices that happen when international law is not enforced or respected, and help their more lucky brethren and other natural-born American friends, relatives and colleagues to better appreciate the life they have here.

On Jan. 26 of this year, the U.S. Azeris Network, a leading nationwide organization of the Azerbaijani-Americans, drafted and initiated a Khojaly Massacre commemoration petition at the White House's "We the People" website, gathering a staggering 125,000 signatures in less than 30 days, making this petition the second biggest White House petition of all time. It was impressive to see how the petition "went viral," with thousands of people sharing it through their social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, as well as more traditional email, to spread awareness.

Some received dozens of reminders from as many people. Signers included not only Azerbaijani-Americans, but many of their friends, relatives and even total strangers — including state politicians who signed it after being moved by this relatively recent tragedy. The White House petition, which can be found at <http://obama.usazeris.org>, calls on the Obama administration to commemorate the war crime of Khojaly.

What are the incentives for President Obama to do it? For starters, the U.S. views itself, and is recognized, as having high moral and ethical standards, historically making human rights and democracy promotion one of its main pillars and foreign policy's objectives. What can promote human rights and democracy more than showing, at least in words, care for the nearly 800 massacred and thousands wounded and hostage of Khojaly, and more broadly, 800,000 Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), which account for 10 percent of that country's population?

Second, U.S. Congress has passed the Genocide Accountability Act, as well as introduced the Crimes Against Humanity Act of 2010, showing care and dedication to these issues. Additionally, the U.S. became the only country to deport an Armenian lieutenant, Vigen Patatanyan, for his — according to Department of Homeland Security statement — "crimes against humanity" towards Azerbaijani civilians.

Third, Azerbaijan is a long-standing ally of the U.S. that served shoulder-to-shoulder in Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan. It is also one of the few predominantly Shia Muslim nations in a very tough, but strategically and geoeconomically important, area.

Fourth, a growing number of countries, including such as diverse mix as the Czech Republic, Germany, Pakistan, Columbia and Mexico, have officially recognized and commemorated Khojaly on a legislative level. Moreover, eight U.S. states have recognized and commemorated the Khojaly Massacre in one way or another since 2010, including Massachusetts, Texas, Maine, New Jersey, Arkansas and New Mexico.

Furthermore, just recently Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) presented a memorial urging that the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy be commemorated, to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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Additionally, Washington, D.C., and New York will see, for the second year in the row, an ad blitz of Khojaly posters on hundreds of buses and subway stations for the next week, educating an ever-larger number of people about this genocidal act.

All this testifies to the determination by the Azerbaijani-Americans, as well as Azerbaijanis worldwide, to see that Khojaly is not thought of as an obscure event in a far-away land, but a major war crime that demands a just and fair investigation and closure.

*Adil Baguirov, Ph.D., is the co-founder and member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Azeris Network (USAN).*

**<http://www.news.az/articles/politics/76951>**

**Posters about Khojaly genocide appear in U.S. cities  
(February 22, 2013)**

The national public awareness campaign about Khojaly genocide is being led by the Azerbaijan America Alliance in the U.S., the website Heraldonline reported on Friday.

The campaign started on Feb.18, when several multimedia projects aimed at educating U.S. citizens about the Khojaly genocide were launched.

According to the report, the Khojaly posters - with the headline, "Khojaly...A Human Tragedy Against Azerbaijan" -- are appearing currently in at least 9 different metro stations in the D.C. area.

"Along with the awareness campaign in the metro stations, both mobile billboards and mobile projections with advertisements remembering the anniversary of Khojaly have been going around D.C. In addition to the stationary posters, mobile billboards and mobile projections of the posters on buildings have been occurring from one end of D.C. to the other, from Chinatown on the Verizon Center, to Dupont and Georgetown M Street buildings, and near Capitol Hill, K Street, and the White House. The Khojaly public awareness campaign will continue in Washington through the rest of February and has begun appearing in New York City this week as well," the report says.

The National Mall and Union Station in Washington and Times Square and the United Nations in New York are several of the many heavily trafficked and iconic locations targeted by the campaign.

The public awareness campaign will last for several weeks, the report says.

On Feb. 25-26 February, 1992, Armenian occupation forces together with the 366th infantry regiment of Soviet troops stationed in Khankendi (previously called Stepanakert) committed an act of genocide towards the population of Azerbaijani Khojaly town.

Some 613 people were killed including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were killed, 130 children lost one parent and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1275 innocent residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

**<http://en.trend.az/regions/scaucasus/azerbaijan/2122570.html>**

**Pakistan hosts round table on Khojaly massacre  
(February 23, 2013)**

The Peace and Democracy Institute of Pakistan has organized a round table entitled “Khojaly tragedy-the dark side of humanity” in the French club “Baskin Chalet”.

The round table was part of a series of events dedicated to the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide carried out by the Azerbaijani Embassy to Pakistan.

According to the Azerbaijani Embassy, the event was attended by director of the Peace and Democracy Institute of Pakistan Mohammed Asif Noor, experts of the Strategic Research Center, journalists, political analysts, representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited in Islamabad and journalists.

Ambassador Dashgin Shikarov addressed the event to highlight history and consequences of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, particularly the Khojaly genocide.

He hailed a statement recognizing the Khojaly massacre as a genocide act and supporting Azerbaijan`s territorial integrity, which was adopted by Pakistan`s Senate.

Aftab Kazi, senior fellow with the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program, spoke of international media and the Memorial Foundation, which covered the Khojaly tragedy.

Scientist Sabah Aslam underlined the significance of the Khojaly massacre`s recognition by Pakistan, Mexico, Columbia, Romania, Czechia, as well as 6 states of the USA and several international organizations.

Mohammed Asif Noor noted that Khojaly had to be recognized as genocide according to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide by UN , which entered into force in 1951, legislative acts by the Nuremberg Military Tribunals, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and the International Criminal Court,

DVDs and photo albums on the Khojaly massacre, and books entitled “Azerbaijan and Pakistan-20 years of friendship and cooperation” by “Diplomatic Insight” magazine were distributed among the participants.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1059558>**

**Azerbaijani Permanent Representative to UN  
sends letter to international organizations on Khojaly tragedy  
(February 23, 2013)**

On the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy, Azerbaijani Permanent Representative to the UN and other organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Murad Najafbayli has sent a letter to the President of the UN Council on Human Rights.

According to the Azerbaijani Permanent Mission, the message proposes to extend the position of Azerbaijan on this issue as an official document of the UN Council on Human Rights members of the 22nd session of the organization.

The letter, which has conclusive evidence of the Armenian armed forces` act of massacre and genocide against Azerbaijani civilians during the occupation of Khojaly, quotes from various information media, journalists and NGOs about the tragedy, provides information about campaign Justice for Khojaly aimed at presenting objective information about the tragedy to international public.

The letter also stresses the obligation of states to bring to justice those who have carried out a violation of human rights and humanitarian issues, the importance of termination of the process of impunity from the perspective of the peace and the rights of victims.

This letter will be circulated as an official document of the 22nd session of the UN Human Rights Council.

Letters of similar content were sent to the Geneva Division of the UN, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the African Union, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, countries that are members and observers of the Non-Aligned Movement, as well as permanent representative of the countries accredited in Geneva of the UN Division.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1059720>**

**Turkmenistan commemorates victims of Khojaly genocide  
(February 23, 2013)**

Azerbaijan`s Embassy in Turkmenistan has held an event marking the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy.

The event brought together employees of diplomatic corpus accredited in Turkmenistan, as well as public figures.

The event started with a one-minute-silence in memory of the Khojaly victims.

Azerbaijani Ambassador to Turkmenistan Vahdat Sultanzade briefed the event participants on the Khojaly massacre which had been perpetrated by Armenian armed forces.

He noted several foreign parliaments recognized the atrocities committed by the Armenian Armed forces in Khojaly as genocide.

The ambassador highlighted the events in a number of countries within the “Justice for Khojaly” International Awareness Campaign initiated by Vice-Chairperson of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva.

The ambassador read out an appeal of Chairman of the Caucasus Muslim Board Sheikh-ul-Islam Haji Allahshukur Pashazade on the occasion of 21st anniversary of Khojaly genocide to religious leaders and international organizations.

The event also featured the demonstration of books and photos, as well as CDs on the Khojaly massacre.

The participants also watched a documentary on the massacre.

The Embassy also issued a media statement on the Khojaly massacre.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1059828>**

**50 Pakistani eminent personalities sign memorandum condemning Khojaly genocide  
(February 23, 2013)**

The Pakistan Observer newspaper has published an article entitled “Memorandum condemning Khojaly genocide presented to UN Representative”.

The article reads: “A memorandum condemning diabolic killings in Nagorno Karabakh by the Armenian forces was presented to the Representative of United Nations here on Friday seeking justice from the world body and international community.

For presenting the Memorandum, fifty eminent personalities led by Zahid Malik, Editor-in-Chief, Pakistan Observer were to visit UN Office in Diplomatic Enclave. But, due to security concerns, it was suggested to send it by a Special Messenger to the UN office for onward transmission to UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon for consideration and necessary action.

The Memorandum, which was sent on behalf of people of Pakistan, conveying their sentiments on the savage attack carried out by Armenian forces, demanded the UN for immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of occupying forces from regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan and called for the restoration of economic, transport and energy links in the region, ensuring safe and sound return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes.

It demanded justice for the victims of Khojaly town, who were attacked between the night of Feb. 25 and 26, 1992 at the hands of heavily armed Armenian forces killing 613 people including 63 children, 106 women and 70 elderly. 487 were wounded and 1275 were made hostages.

The memorandum said after the departure of the Soviet Union, armed Armenian nationalists invaded Nagorno Karabakh and seven other districts, located within the internationally recognized borders of Azerbaijan, driving out forcefully nearly one million civilians from their homes. More than twenty thousand lost their lives.

During all these years, the Memorandum said the UN adopted several resolutions for withdrawal of Armenian forces but aggressors did not implement them. The OIC and other world bodies also passed similar resolutions.

Meanwhile, Dashgin Shikarov, ambassador of Azerbaijan accompanied by Ilham Mammadov, First Secretary of the Mission visited office of Pakistan Observer on Friday to convey his thanks to Zahid Malik and those who participated in this Memorandum. Zahid Malik said his newspaper always take principled stand on humanitarian issues. His paper supports the principled position taken by the government of Azerbaijan on the issue of Nagorno Karabakh.”

<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1059606>

**French colisee.org website issues article on Khojaly tragedy  
(February 23, 2013)**

Colisee.org website of France has issued an article on the Khojaly tragedy titled “21st anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy: one of the most serious crimes against humanity”. The article states that existence of conflicts is a threat for stability in the South Caucasus

Colisee.org website of France has issued an article on the Khojaly tragedy titled “21st anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy: one of the most serious crimes against humanity”.

The article states that existence of conflicts is a threat for stability in the South Caucasus.

“The Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict became more serious after USSR`s decline. Armenia, backed by the Soviet army occupied 20% of Azerbaijan's territory, including historical and cultural cradle of Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh. This situation has caused a flood of refugees, more than a million people have become refugees or displaced within their own country and are still waiting to return to their homes. Negotiations on the peaceful settlement of the conflict that was conducted since 1992 in the framework of the Minsk Group of the OSCE co-chaired by the United States, France and Russia had no real results.

International organizations have unanimously condemned the attack. The Security Council of the United Nations, affirming the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, in 1993 condemned the occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding regions of Azerbaijan and demanded the withdrawal of Armenian occupying forces. In this regard, the Security Council adopted in 1993, four resolutions (# 822, 853, 874, 884). However, none of these resolutions is implemented by Armenia.

The Nagorno-Karabakh broke out in 1988, resulting in bloody abuses and atrocities. The city of Khojaly in Nagorno-Karabakh region, also known as the "Srebrenica Caucasus" was removed from the map by Armenian forces at the night of February 25 to 26, 1992. The Armenian troops were supported units by the 366th motorized regiment of former Soviet army. In total, 613 civilians were killed including 106 women, 83 children and 70 elderly. Some 1275 civilians were taken prisoners. Before Srebrenica, the world has witnessed the massacre of Khojaly. At the end of the XX century, such atrocity is unacceptable. The Council of Europe promotes the sanctity and immunity of the human rights. But it demands an equal judgment against all human tragedies.

The unsettlement of the conflict hinders the economic development of the South Caucasus and the integration of these countries into the European family.

The aggression of the territory of Azerbaijan and the massacre of Khojaly are criminal acts under the statute of the International Criminal Court. But the indifference of the international community creates discrimination against peoples, which is contrary to the spirit of humanity. Victims of Khojaly tragedy have still not received justice despite 21 years.

Azerbaijan shows its commitment to a peaceful solution of the conflict within the framework of territorial integrity and the principles of international law. It also calls for the international community to take a firm stand against this unacceptable situation,” the article informs.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1059751>**

**Rally dedicated to the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Khojaly genocide held in Ottawa  
(February 23, 2013)**

In Ottawa on Friday held a rally dedicated to the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide, said in report of Azerbaijani embassy in Canada.

Rally, which started from the building of the Parliament of Canada and ended at the Armenian Embassy in Canada, attended Azerbaijani citizens living in Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto and Waterloo and Azerbaijani students studying in these cities.

During the procession were sounded slogans against the crimes committed by Armenian armed forces on February 25-26, 1992, and the occupation of Azerbaijani territories, ongoing since 1988.

The demonstrators demanded to stop aggressor policy of Armenia and called on members of Canada parliament to provide a legal and political evaluation of the Khojaly genocide.

On Feb. 25-26, 1992, Armenian occupation forces together with the 366th infantry regiment of Soviet troops stationed in Khankendi (previously called Stepanakert) committed an act of genocide towards the population of Azerbaijani Khojaly town.

Some 613 people were killed including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide.

Eight families were killed, 130 children lost one parent and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1275 innocent residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

**<http://en.trend.az/news/society/2122962.html>**

**Khojaly tragedy - international injustice  
(February 24, 2013)**

Khojaly tragedy is the international injustice and such tragedies must in no way repeat, a student from Ghana Joanna Appeby told AzerTAc correspondent at the event on Justice for Khojaly held in Exeter. Appeby said she realized how serious the Khojaly genocide is. According to her, killing of

Khojaly tragedy is the international injustice and such tragedies must in no way repeat, a student from Ghana Joanna Appeby told AzerTAc correspondent at the event on Justice for Khojaly held in Exeter.

Appeby said she realized how serious the Khojaly genocide is. According to her, killing of hundreds of innocent people cannot be forgiven. She praised the activity of the Azerbaijani Diaspora in raising the world community`s awareness about the issue.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1059866>**

**Khojaly tragedy is unforgettable and undeniable reality  
(February 24, 2013)**

“The Khojaly tragedy is an unforgettable and undeniable reality. Other countries can face such tragedies in the future, as well,” head of the Georgian Society of the University of Exeter Giorgi Lomidze told AzerTAc. Participating at an event called “Justice for Khojaly” held in the University, Lomidze said he

“The Khojaly tragedy is an unforgettable and undeniable reality. Other countries can face such tragedies in the future, as well,” head of the Georgian Society of the University of Exeter Giorgi Lomidze told AzerTAc.

Participating at an event called “Justice for Khojaly” held in the University, Lomidze said he was aware of the Khojaly genocide, stressing the necessity of the fact that international organizations should demonstrate serious stance on the issue. He also added the world community must not remain indifferent to such a vandalism and injustice.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1059885>**

**Khojaly tragedy must be paid attention at international level  
(February 24, 2013)**

The Khojaly tragedy must be paid attention at an international level, a student of the University of Exeter from Hong-Kong Vny Lee said in his interview to AzerTAc. Participating at an event called “Justice for Khojaly” held in the University Lee said:

The Khojaly tragedy must be paid attention at an international level, a student of the University of Exeter from Hong-Kong Vny Lee said in his interview to AzerTAc.

Participating at an event called “Justice for Khojaly” held in the University Lee said: “When I heard about the Khojaly tragedy I realized how great injustice this event is.”

The student expressed hope that the world community would soon demonstrate serious position on the issue and those bearing responsibility for such an injustice would be punished.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1059890>**

**Memory of Khojaly tragedy`s victims commemorated in Kuwait  
(February 24, 2013)**

An event to commemorate the memory of Khojaly tragedy`s victims has been held Friday in the Azerbaijani Embassy in Kuwait. Addressing the event Azerbaijani ambassador Tural Rzayev highlighted atrocities committed by the Armenian armed forces and 366 motor-infantry regiment of former

An event to commemorate the memory of Khojaly tragedy`s victims has been held Friday in the Azerbaijani Embassy in Kuwait.

Addressing the event Azerbaijani ambassador Tural Rzayev highlighted atrocities committed by the Armenian armed forces and 366 motor-infantry regiment of former USSR against innocent people of Azerbaijan in Khojaly. He described the Khojaly tragedy as an historical crime against humanity.

The diplomat noted the Embassy of Azerbaijan do regular works to increase the awareness of the Kuwaiti community about the massacre committed by Armenians brutally violating norms and principles of international law.

Speaking at the event Azerbaijan`s deputy culture and tourism minister Adalat Valiyev said 613 innocent people were killed in Khojaly by Armenians. Valiyev also spoke about the destruction of cultural monuments by Armenians in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Rector of Baku Music Academy Farhad Badalbayli highlighted genocidal acts committed by Armenians against Azerbaijanis for more than a century. He also underscored the necessity of the fact that more works must be done to increase the awareness of peoples in foreign countries.

The event participants saw a document featuring the Khojaly genocide.

On the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly massacre the Azerbaijani Embassy in Kuwait has published a book called "The Khojaly genocide". The book was sent to Kuwaiti parliamentarians, state and government officials, NGOs and media outlets.

The memory of Khojaly victims was also commemorated in mosques in Al-Kuwait.

<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1059891>

**People gather to commemorate Khojaly massacre victims in Vienna  
(February 24, 2013)**

The Azerbaijani Academic Union staged a mass rally on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy in the Stephan square here in the downtown.

The Union organized a display of brochures, books on the Khojaly genocide, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in square.

Students informed those walking through the square about the causes and consequences of the conflict.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1059903>**

**Turkey hosts series of conferences on Khojaly genocide anniversary  
(February 24, 2013)**

The conferences and other events in commemoration of the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide are being organized by diplomatic missions of Azerbaijan in Turkey, local universities and authorities.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Khojaly massacre victims at the ceremony of the Eskisehir Anadolu University. The participants also saw a photo exhibition organized by the Azerbaijani consulate general in Istanbul.

The conference was addressed by professors of Turkish universities who gave presentations on the Khojaly massacre. They said the documents on the Khojaly atrocities are an important response to the Armenian lobby, which is preparing for the 100th anniversary of the so-called "Armenian genocide".

The ceremonies were also held in the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the city of Sivas, Ataturk Kultur Center in the city of Tokat, the conference in Yalova as well as the event in the Turan centers with participation of Turkish and Azerbaijani public and conference in the Sakarya University.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1059904>**

**Rally on Khojaly genocide held in Stockholm  
(February 24, 2013)**

A mass rally on the occasion of the Khojaly massacre anniversary was organized by the Swedish Azerbaijanis Congress in the downtown Stockholm with support of the embassy of Azerbaijan to this country.

The participants of the rally including representatives of the Azerbaijan-Sweden Federation, Turkish and Uygur communities adopted a resolution text on the recognition of the Khojaly massacre as a genocide to be submitted to the Swedish parliament.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1059919>**

**Khojaly victims commemorated in China  
(February 24, 2013)**

A commemorative event on the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly massacre has been arranged at the Azerbaijan Embassy in China.

The event was attended by representative of the local society and Azerbaijanis living in China started with a one-minute-silence in memory of the Khojaly victims.

Ambassador Latif Gandilov briefed the event participants on the history of the tragedy.

“The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on February 26, 1992. Some 613 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.”

The participants watched a documentary on the Khojaly massacre.

An exhibition featuring materials by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, photos, CDs, books and booklets from the series of “Karabakh truths” and works from “Khojaly tragedy through eyes of the children” was organized at the embassy.

*Shahin Jafarov, AzerTAc  
Beijing*

<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1059927>

**Secretary General: OIC member countries should joint efforts  
for Khojaly genocide recognition at world scale  
(February 25, 2013)**

Member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) should join efforts for the recognition of the Khojaly genocide at world scale. OIC Secretary General, Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu made this statement at an event in the Saudi city of Jeddah that honors the memory of the Khojaly genocide victims, Anadolu agency reported on Monday.

According to Ihsanoglu, the OIC does its utmost for the recognition of the genocide at world scale.

He called on Armenia to immediately liberate the occupied Azerbaijani territories.

The event was also attended by Director of the Islamic Development Bank Ahmad Mohamed Ali, Azerbaijani Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Rasim Rzayev and Turkish Consul in Jeddah Fikret Ozer.

On Feb. 25-26 February, 1992, Armenian occupation forces together with the 366th infantry regiment of Soviet troops stationed in Khankendi (earlier Stepanakert) committed an act of genocide towards the population of Azerbaijani Khojaly town.

Some 613 people were killed including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were killed, 130 children lost one parent and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 innocent residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

**<http://en.trend.az/news/politics/2123342.html>**

**Rally to mark 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Khojaly genocide held in Paris  
(February 25, 2013)**

The House of Azerbaijan functioning in France has held a rally in a square near the Montmartre hill in Paris on the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

Hundreds of Azerbaijanis, carrying flags of Azerbaijan and France and placards, chanted slogans condemning atrocities committed by Armenians against innocent people of Khojaly.

Head of the House of Azerbaijan Mirvari Fataliyeva read out the message on the Khojaly tragedy to French officials. The message said on February 26, 1992 Armenian armed forces with help of 366 motor-infantry regiment of former USSR committed massacre against innocent people in Khojaly killing numerous women, children and elderly people and taking thousands of civilians hostage. "Human Rights Watch described the Khojaly tragedy as the largest massacre to date in the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh."

The rally participants were handed over brochures on the Khojaly genocide, and balloons with names of children who lost their lives during the bloodshed were released.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1060017>**

**March on Khojaly tragedy`s 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary held in London  
(February 25, 2013)**

The Azerbaijani Students and Alumni International Forum, ASAIF and Azerbaijani youngsters studying in London have organized a march in London on the 21st anniversary of Khojaly tragedy. A lot of people, including Azerbaijani and foreign students from various British universities participated in the march. They carried placards condemning Armenia`s aggressive policy against Azerbaijan and demanded punishment of the culprits of the massacre. They said the Khojaly genocide must be given a political and legal assessment and chanted slogans such as “Justice for Khojaly”, “We want justice”, “We want peace”, “Sargsyan is a terrorist.”

The march, started in the Trafalgar Square, continued with a rally in front of the British parliament.

The event participants were handed over brochures on the Khojaly tragedy.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1060023>**

**Memory of Khojaly massacre`s victims commemorated in Magdeburg  
(February 25, 2013)**

An event to commemorate the memory of the Khojaly tragedy`s victims was co-organized in Magdeburg by the Embassy of Azerbaijan, Odlar Yurdu (Land of Fire) organization and German-Azerbaijan Cultural Society functioning in Saxony-Anhalt.

The event brought together representatives of German, Russian, Bulgarian and Polish communities.

Addressing the event head of the German-Azerbaijan Cultural Society Yashar Niftaliyev highlighted the bloodshed committed by Armenians against Azerbaijanis in Khojaly in 1992.

Member of Azerbaijan parliament Rovshan Rzayev and author of the book on the 20th anniversary of Khojaly tragedy Rolf Kunsh spoke about crimes committed by Armenians against the Azerbaijani people.

The event participants saw a documentary featuring the Khojaly tragedy.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1060014>**

**Rally to mark Khojaly massacre`s anniversary held in Bielefeld  
(February 25, 2013)**

A rally has been held in the city of Bielefeld in Germany on the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly massacre.

The participants demanded punishment of those committed the Khojaly genocide, particularly organizers of the tragedy – Serge Sargsyan, Gukasyan, Zori Balayan and Robert Khocharyan.

They also chanted slogans such as “Freedom to Karabakh” and “Justice for Khojaly.”

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1060025>**

**Khojaly genocide victims remembered in Berlin  
(February 25, 2013)**

The victims of the Khojaly genocide were commemorated here in an event organized by the Turkish-Azerbaijani Union in Germany and Azerbaijan`s embassy to this country.

The event was held at the Turkish House in Berlin. The event was attended by Azerbaijani MPs Ganira Pashayeva and Rovshan Rzayev, historian Maharram Zulfugarli.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of shahids.

Then, Executive Director of the Coordinating Center of Azerbaijanis in Germany Samira Patzer-Ismayilova addressed the meeting and provided information about actions to have the Khojaly genocide recognized by the German public.

Chairman of the Ataturk Thought Association Olcay Bashegmez expressed regret that the Nagorno-Karabakh problem still remains unsolved. According to him, some countries` reluctance to solve the conflict play a major role.

Azerbaijani ambassador Parviz Shahbazov said in his remarks that co-organization of such events by both communities at the Turkish House has become regular. He noted Turkish and Azerbaijani diasporas cooperate and support each other in Germany. The ambassador pointed out that commemoration ceremonies were held in 30 countries in Germany.

The attitude towards Azerbaijan has changed in Germany and a number of resolutions on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict were adopted. He underlined that President Ilham Aliyev makes every effort to find a peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Consul general of Turkey in Berlin Ahmad Bashar Shen said the Khojaly genocide is a source of sorrow for both Turkish and Azerbaijani communities. He said injustice to the people of Azerbaijan saddens the Turkish people too. From this point of view Turkey shares Azerbaijan`s sorrow.

Afterwards, the documentary on the Khojaly massacre was shown to the participants.

Also speaking at the event were Ganira Pashayeva, Rovshan Rzayev and Maharram Zulfugarli.

<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1060060>

**Endless Corridor film screened in Vilnius  
(February 25, 2013)**

A presentation of the Endless Corridor film has been held here at the Forume Cinema Vingis theater. The film was made by the European cinematographers with the support of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Leyla Aliyeva, Coordinator of the Justice for Khojaly international campaign.

The presentation organized by the Azerbaijani embassy to Lithuania was attended by Lithuania`s state and government officials, MPs, famous producer centers` heads, journalists. The film was short thanks to the efforts of cinematographers from Europe.

The presentation was addressed by journalists and human rights activists from Lithuania, England, Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Lithuanian military journalist Richardas Lapaitis shared his impressions as the witness of Armenian atrocities in Karabakh.

The event saw participation of Lithuanian former foreign minister, MP Audronius Ajobalis, head of the Friendship Group for Azerbaijan in the Lithuanian Saeimas Yuras Pojela, representatives of Lithuania`s Foreign and Interior, Defense Ministries.

Azeri ambassador Hasan Mammadzade expressed hope that the Khojaly tragedy will be fairly judged in the near future.

The event was widely covered by the Lithuanian media. The Azerbaijani ambassador was interviewed.

The Endless Corridor will be screened at the international festival in Vilnius.

Articles on the Khojaly tragedy will be published in the Lithuanian press. The Armenian embassy in Lithuania will be picketed by the local Diaspora on February 25.

Khojaly massacre-related events are scheduled to take place in Kaunas and Klaipeda.

<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1060075>

**Khojaly genocide victims commemorated in Japan  
(February 25, 2013)**

Azerbaijan`s Embassy to Japan has held an event marking the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy. The event, attended by the members of Azerbaijan`s diaspora in Japan, as well as public figures and journalists, started with a one-minute-silence in memory of the Khojaly victims.

Ambassador Gursel Ismayilzade briefed the event participants on the history of the tragedy.

“The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on February 26, 1992. Some 613 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.”

The Ambassador also praised the launch of a petition on the White House website calling for condemnation of the Khojaly tragedy.

He provided an insight into “Justice for Khojaly” International Awareness Campaign initiated by Vice-Chairperson of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva.

The event featured an exhibition and a slide show on the Khojaly tragedy.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1060519>**

**Khojaly genocide victims to be commemorated in Mexico  
(February 25, 2013)**

Azerbaijan`s Embassy to Mexico has organized a commemorative concert as part of the Justice for Khojaly international campaign to mark the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide. The event brought together Mexican congressmen, officials, heads and members of diplomatic corps accredited in the country, representatives of the Azerbaijani, Turkish and Georgian communities and journalists.

The commemorative event took place in Tlaxskoake-Khojaly square.

Addressing the event, Azerbaijani ambassador Ilgar Mukhtarov spoke of the Khojaly genocide, saying “Armenia, with support of the leadership of former USSR, raised territorial claims against Azerbaijan and occupied Nagorno-Karabakh and seven adjacent regions”. He described the Khojaly tragedy as a crime against humanity.

The diplomat noted the Embassy of Azerbaijan had been regularly working to increase the awareness of the Mexican community of the massacre committed by Armenians brutally violating norms and principles of international law.

Head priest at the Konsepsion Santisima church on Tlaxskoake-Khojaly Square Eduardo Lozano Juarez described the Khojaly massacre as the blackest page in human history.

Eduardo Lozano emphasized the inadmissibility of such crimes and said that “a monument to the victims of Khojaly genocide is a symbol of peace and justice”.

Symphony Orchestra of the State of Mexico improvised classical compositions by the world famous composers including Azerbaijan`s Gara Garayev.

Participants of the event watched a documentary “The Khojaly genocide” made by the Azerbaijani Embassy to Mexico.

The Embassy also distributed books and journals on the tragedy among the participants.

<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1060361>

**Memory of Khojaly tragedy`s victims commemorated in Tashkent  
(February 25, 2013)**

An event to commemorate the memory of Khojaly tragedy`s victims has been held in the Azerbaijan Cultural Centre after Heydar Aliyev in Tashkent. The event brought together public, culture and art figures of Uzbekistan, as well as the members of Diaspora organizations and journalists

An event to commemorate the memory of Khojaly tragedy`s victims has been held in the Azerbaijan Cultural Centre after Heydar Aliyev in Tashkent.

The event brought together public, culture and art figures of Uzbekistan, as well as the members of Diaspora organizations and journalists.

The event started with a one-minute-silence in memory of the Khojaly victims.

Azerbaijan`s ambassador to Uzbekistan Huseyn Guliyev briefed the event participants on the Khojaly massacre which had been perpetrated by Armenian armed forces.

The event participants also watched a documentary “Khoja”

An exhibition featuring materials by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, photos, CDs, books and booklets from the series of “Karabakh truths” was organized at the embassy.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1060123>**

**Hague hosts ceremony dedicated to Khojaly massacre  
(February 25, 2013)**

Victims of the terrible Khojaly massacre have been commemorated in the Hague. According to the Head of 'Ana Vatan' Association of Azerbaijani Women of the Netherlands Maisa Agamirzayeva, the event was organized by the 'Ana Vatan' Association, Holland - Azerbaijan – Turkey Cultural center, Azerbaijani youth living in the Netherlands with the help of Azerbaijan's Dutch friend Gert Van Damme.

Members of the Azerbaijani Embassy in the Netherlands, Head of the working group of State Commission on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons Firudin Sadigov, famous political scientists, the media, and representatives of the Turkish community attended the event.

Participants of the event were presented CDs and brochures on the Khojaly tragedy.

On February 26, the Azeri and Turkish communities of the Netherlands will hold a rally in Hague against the Armenian aggression and brutalities.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1060462>**

**Azeri community of Kharkov commemorate Khojaly victims  
(February 25, 2013)**

The 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide was marked in Kharkov, Ukraine.

Head of the Ukrainian-Azerbaijani Friendship Society, Professor Murad Omarov briefed the attendees on Khojaly genocide and urged the Azerbaijani youth not to forget those tragic events.

Eyewitnesses of Khojaly tragedy spoke about the terrible night of 25 to 26 February, 1992. The participants were presented printed materials and watch "Khojaly genocide" documentary produced by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

The event was attended by members of the Azeri Diaspora, Azerbaijani students studying in universities of Kharkov, the representatives of the Ukrainian community.

The Khojaly Massacre was the killing of hundreds of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians from the town of Khojaly on 25–26 February 1992 by the Armenian and, partially, by CIS armed forces during the Nagorno-Karabakh War. According to the Azerbaijani side, as well as Memorial Human Rights Center, Human Rights Watch and other international observers, the massacre was committed by the ethnic Armenian armed forces, reportedly with help of the Russian 366th Motor Rifle Regiment, apparently not acting on orders from the command. The death toll provided by Azerbaijani authorities is 613 civilians, including 106 women and 83 children. The event became the largest massacre in the course of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The Khojaly Massacre was described by Human Rights Watch as "the largest massacre to date in the conflict" over Nagorno-Karabakh.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1060468>**

**European Azerbaijanis Congress appeals to German Bundestag on Khojaly genocide  
(February 25, 2013)**

The European Azerbaijanis Congress (EAC) has made an appeal to German Bundestag on the Khojaly genocide`s anniversary, Azerbaijan`s State Committee for Work with Diaspora has said.

The appeal starts with words of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan who told in his interview to British journalist Thomas de Waal that: “Before Khojali, the Azerbaijanis thought that ... the Armenians were people who could not raise their hand against the civilian population. We were able to break that stereotype.”

Unfortunately, President Sargsyan does not hurry to remember these words which he told the author of the book “Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan through Peace and War”.

The appeal says: “On the night of 25-26 February 1992, the Armenian armed forces, with participation of the Khankendi-based 366th motorized infantry regiment of the soviet army, attacked and ruined, in one night, the town of Khojaly, which had been encircled during months. In this bloody act, they brutally slaughtered civilians, murdering 613 people, abusing corpses, taking 1275 hostages. Of them, the fate of 150 remains unknown. Of the killed, 63 are children, 106 are women and 70 are elders. The military invasion completely wiped out 8 families.

Human Rights Watch named the Khojaly Massacre “Azerbaijan`s Srebrenica”.

The organization described the Khojaly genocide as the largest atrocity of the conflict and regarded the actions of Armenian forces as a violation of the customary law on the treatment of civilians in war zones. “Organizers and perpetrators of this massacre have not answered before the international court. The Khojaly genocide is an unpunished crime. Therefore reopening of the Khojaly airport is a pain for Azerbaijani citizens.”

In its appeal, the EAC calls on the European community to show solidarity with Azerbaijani people.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1060535>**

**Khojaly victims commemorated in the UAE  
(February 25, 2013)**

Azerbaijan`s Embassy to Abu Dhabi has held an event marking the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy.

The event brought together representatives of the International Bank of Azerbaijan in Dubai, as well as employees of SOCAR trading, members of the Azeri community and journalists.

Azerbaijan`s ambassador Elkhan Gahramanov briefed the event participants on the history of the tragedy, which claimed the lives of 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men.”

“A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide committed by the Armenian military forces in the town of Khojaly on February 26, 1992.”

“Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.”

He said the massacre in Khojaly was a crime not only against the Azerbaijani nation, but also against humanity.

The participants watched a documentary on the Khojaly massacre.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1060579>**

**Rally to commemorate Khojaly massacre held in Copenhagen  
(February 25, 2013)**

A rally has been held in the Radhuspladsen square in Copenhagen, Denmark, on the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly massacre.

Participants of the rally carried placards on the Khojaly massacre.

They distributed books and brochures on the Khojaly tragedy among local residents.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1060523>**

**Khojaly genocide victims commemorated in Qatar  
(February 25, 2013)**

Azerbaijan`s Embassy to Qatar has held an event marking the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy. Participants in the event included officials of diplomatic corps in Qatar, members of the Azerbaijani community, and journalists.

Azerbaijan`s ambassador Tofiq Abdullayev briefed the event participants on the history of the tragedy.

“The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on February 26, 1992 killing 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men.”

He noted: “A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.”

The event featured a documentary on the Khojaly massacre.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1060525>**

**Hague-based newspaper publishes article about Khojaly massacre  
(February 25, 2013)**

Popular Dutch newspaper «ADgezet» published an article about the Khojaly tragedy, chairman of ‘Ana Vatan’ Association of Azerbaijani Women of the Netherlands Maisa Agamirzayeva told AzerTAc.

The article brings the readers’ attention to the 1992 massacre of nearly 1000 Azerbaijani civilians in the village of Khojaly by Armenian and Russian military forces.

The article was prepared by the joint efforts of ‘Ana Vatan’ Association of Azerbaijani Women of the Netherlands, "Holland – Azerbaijan - Turkey" Cultural Center, Azerbaijani youth living in Holland.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1060434>**

**Jordanian Al-Rai newspaper writes on Khojaly tragedy  
(February 25, 2013)**

Arabic daily in Jordan “Al-Rai” posted an article on the 21st anniversary of Khojaly genocide, as well as the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by Azerbaijani ambassador to the country Sabir Aghabayov.

The author praises the Azerbaijan-Jordan relations and he stresses that Jordan supports Azerbaijan`s position in the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The author informs readers on resolution adopted in the seventh meeting of Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation which describes the Khojaly genocide as a crime against humanity, condemns Armenia`s aggressive policy against Azerbaijan, and stresses the fact that the UN Security Council resolutions remain unfulfilled.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1060449>**

**Victims of Khojaly massacre commemorated in Riga  
(February 25, 2013)**

Riga-based "Ocaq" Azerbaijan Cultural Centre has organized an event to commemorate victims of the Khojaly tragedy.

The event was attended by Azerbaijani ambassador to Latvia Elman Zeynalov, head of the Azerbaijan-Latvia parliamentary friendship group Janis Reirs, members of the Azerbaijani diaspora, public figures and Azerbaijani students in Riga.

The event featured screening of a video about Karabakh and a documentary highlighting the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Latvian choir of Yugli School performed "My Khojaly" song in Azerbaijani language.

Ambassador Zeynalov called on Latvian parliament to recognize the Khojaly tragedy as genocide.

He praised the relations between the two countries, expressing Azerbaijan's readiness to defend Latvia's position in all international organizations.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1060494>**

**Egyptian “Al-Ahram International” newspaper writes about Khojaly genocide  
(February 26, 2013)**

The Egypt-based “Al-Ahram International” newspaper has published an article entitled “The Khojaly genocide: silence of international community.” The article highlights atrocities committed by the Armenian armed forces and 366 motor-infantry regiment of former USSR against innocent people of Azerbaijan in Khojaly. The author of the article says as a result of the bloodshed committed in Khojaly in 1992, 613 innocent civilians were killed and 1275 were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown. “Twenty percent of Azerbaijani territories is under Armenian occupation.” The article goes on to say that legislative bodies of several countries have already given political and legal assessment to the Khojaly genocide. “The Khojaly tragedy was described as a crime against humanity in the final document adopted in the summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference held in February 2-7 in Cairo. Heads of state and government of OIC member states called the international community in the document to recognize the Khojaly tragedy as genocide.”

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1060640>**

**Ankara hosts conference dedicated to Khojaly genocide  
(February 26, 2013)**

The Ankara-based University Türk Hava Kurumu hosted a conference dedicated to the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide. The conference was organized under the support of the Embassy of Azerbaijan to Turkey.

Opening the conference, the rector of the University, Professor Unsal Ban said the staff of the University is proud to contribute to the recognition of Khojaly genocide, which is a tragedy not only for Azerbaijan and Turkey, but for the whole Turkic world and humanity.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, several ministers and parliamentarians of Turkey have sent a message to the participants of the conference.

Speaking at the conference Head of the department of social and political affairs of the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan Ali Hasanov expressed gratitude to Turkish government for its contribution to Khojaly massacre awareness campaign.

Informing about the Khojaly genocide, Ali Hasanov said that the massacre committed by Armenians in Khojaly, the third largest town of Nagorno Karabakh region, has been prepared during several months.

“Two months before the tragedy, all the roads leading to the city had been blocked to prevent full evacuation of the civilian population. At the time of the attack committed by the regular Soviet army units and the Armenian militants, 2700 civilians remained in Khojaly. As a result of the attack, in the night from 25 to 26 February 613 civilians were brutally killed, the fate of 150 people is still unknown. Fearing pressure from international organizations, the Armenians freed 1200 captives.

Khojaly massacre is an act of genocide. Azerbaijan together with fraternal Turkey does all its best to achieve the recognition of the genocide. The parliaments of the four countries - Colombia, Mexico, Pakistan and the Czech Republic, as well as six U.S. states have already recognized the Khojaly genocide, 55 members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation have also taken similar steps,” Ali Hasanov said.

Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Turkey Faik Bagirov, chairman of Turkey-Azerbaijan Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group Necdet Unuvar, MP Pashayeva, members of Turkish parliament also addressed the conference.

Summing up the conference, Ali Hasanov said that people through social networks, as well as non-governmental organizations should contribute to the campaign aimed at the recognition of the Khojaly genocide. The participants of the conference viewed photo exhibition dedicated to the Khojaly genocide and watched a documentary produced by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1060669>

**Hungarian party issues statement in connection with 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Khojaly genocide  
(February 26, 2013)**

Hungary's far-right Jobbik party (For a Better Hungary), presented in the country's parliament with 46 and in the European Parliament with three mandates, issued a statement in connection with the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide, the Azerbaijani Embassy in Hungary said on Tuesday.

'On February 26, 1992, the Armenian and Soviet militaries during a war of aggression launched in the name of fighting over the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, captured and completely destroyed the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly, and massacred its inhabitants trying to escape. 613 civilians were killed, 150 people went missing', the statement said.

Armenian aggression which began in 1988 without a declaration of war, destroyed the lives of 20,000 Azerbaijanis, the statement said.

'Armed Armenians first expelled 250,000 Azerbaijanis from their native lands. These people had lived in the territory of Armenia for centuries and then, following the open military aggression and occupation, at least another 660,000 Azerbaijanis were expelled in the same way.

'This was an act of ruthless ethnic cleansing. Today Armenia continues to hold under occupation nearly one fifth of the territory of Azerbaijan', according to the document.

In order to resolve the conflict, the UN Security Council, the Council of Europe, the OSCE and the European Parliament have adopted relevant resolutions and appeals, the statement says.

'The solution of the conflict is always hindered by Armenian opposition. There could be no other purpose for the international community than restoration of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, termination of the Armenian military occupation and provision of the opportunity for the refugees to return to their homes', the statement says.

According to the document, in connection with the aforementioned, the Jobbik Party once again presents the proposal to the Parliament made previously on April 11, 2011, expanding the argument list through adding the countries that in the past two years issued a communiqué condemning the genocide committed in Khojaly.

'The Jobbik party (For a Better Hungary) in solidarity with the kindred Turanian peoples supports Azerbaijan's efforts towards restoring justice and conflict resolution in order to ensure a lasting peace', the statement read.

Expressing solidarity with the people of Azerbaijan, the party condemns the actions of the aggressor Armenia and demands implementation of the resolutions of the UN, OSCE, Council of Europe and other international organisations on the liberation of the occupied territories, restoration of Azerbaijan's sovereignty and territorial integrity and return of refugees to their homes.

In April 2011, the Jobbik Party (Movement for a Better Hungary) put forward an initiative of adopting a resolution on Armenia's occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh and recognition of the Khojaly genocide by the Hungarian Parliament. Despite the failure of the initiative, the party did not give up on the idea and is going to start a new process in the legislative body in this regard.

The text of the statement is published on the party's website [www.jobbik.hu](http://www.jobbik.hu) and [www.alfahir.hu](http://www.alfahir.hu), and disseminated among the members of parliament.

On Feb. 25-26 February, 1992, Armenian occupation forces together with the 366th infantry regiment of Soviet troops stationed in Khankendi (previously Stepanakert) committed an act of genocide towards the population of the Azerbaijani Khojaly town.

Some 613 people were killed including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were killed, 130 children lost one parent and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1275 innocent residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. Armenian armed forces have occupied 20 per cent of Azerbaijan since 1992, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts.

Azerbaijan and Armenia signed a ceasefire agreement in 1994. The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group - Russia, France and the U.S. - are still holding yet unsuccessful peace negotiations.

Armenia has not yet implemented four U.N. Security Council resolutions on the liberation of the Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding regions.

**Khojaly victims commemorated in Israel  
(February 26, 2013)**

An event marking the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy has been held at Museum of the Jewish Diaspora, located on the campus of Tel Aviv University, in Israel.

Supported by the “Justice for Khojaly” International Awareness Campaign initiated by Vice-Chairperson of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva, the event was co-organized by Azerbaijan State Telegraph Agency (AzerTAc), and Azerbaijan International Association (Aziz).

Books, brochures and printing materials on Khojaly massacre published by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, as well as photos presented by AzerTAc were exhibited at the hall of the museum.

The event brought together Members of Azerbaijan’s Parliament, as well as State and Governmental officials of Israel, representatives of the diplomatic corpus accredited in Israel, students, employees of the Azerbaijani Diaspora.

Head of the Azerbaijani Culture Centre in Israel Yegane Salman briefed the event participants on the history of the tragedy, which claimed the lives of 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men.

“A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide committed by the Armenian military forces in the town of Khojaly on February 26, 1992.”

“Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.”

Member of the Knesset, the country's Minister of Immigrant Absorption Sofa Landver hailed steadily developing relations between the two countries. She noted the Khojaly massacre was a crime against Azerbaijani people.

The Minister said: “The resolutions adopted by other international organizations on Azerbaijan’s territorial integrity should be done and the return of the refugees and IDPs to their homes would be ensured.”

Member of Azerbaijan’s Parliament Fuad Muradov touched upon Israel-Azerbaijani developing relations.

He also said President Ilham Aliyev attached the great importance to the relations with Israel. The MP highlighted inter-parliamentary relations between the two countries.

Muradov stressed the importance of “Justice for Khojaly” International Awareness Campaign initiated by Vice-Chairperson of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva.

The event also featured a demonstration of the “Endless Corridor” documentary. The film was made by the European cinematographers with the support of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Coordinator of the Justice for Khojaly international campaign Leyla Aliyeva.

Head of the Azerbaijani Culture Centre in Israel Yegane thanked the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, STENGI Foundation and management of AzerTAc for their support.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1061096>**

**Khojaly victims remembered in Switzerland**  
**(February 26, 2013)**

Azerbaijan`s Embassy to Switzerland jointly with “Friend of Azerbaijan” Union held an event marking the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy.

The event started with a one-minute-silence in memory of the Khojaly victims.

The event also featured a demonstration of the Khoja, a movie by Azerbaijani filmmaker Vahid Mustafayev.

Khoja is a tragedy and greatness of two loving hearts. It tells about the heroism of ordinary people. The main characters Yura and Mehriban were initially indifferent towards each other. But when the time comes to protect their land with weapon in their hands against the Armenian occupants, true feelings erupt in their hearts.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1060760>**

**Hungarian Jobbik party expresses solidarity with brotherly Azerbaijani nation  
(February 26, 2013)**

Hungarian right wing political party Jobbik - the Movement for a Better Hungary, which has the mandate of 46 members at the Hungarian Parliament and three members at the EU Parliament, has issued a statement on the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

The statement says: “The undeclared war that had been going on since 1988 claimed the lives of around 20 thousand Azeri victims. First, Armenian armed forces drove 250 thousand Azeri people away from their homeland in Armenia where they had lived for centuries. On the 21st anniversary of the genocide in the town of Khojaly, Jobbik Movement for a Better Hungary expresses its solidarity and sympathy for the people of Azerbaijan, on the day to commemorate the victims of the Armenian aggression committed against the country.”

“Armenian armed forces killed 613 civilians, including 63 children and 106 women. The fate of over 150 people is still unknown to this day.

Then, after a blatant military aggression and occupation, they displaced 660 thousand Azerbaijani citizens from the occupied territories, conducting a brutal ethnic cleansing. Armenia still occupies nearly one fifth of the territory of Azerbaijan to this day. Nagorno-Karabakh is just a minor part of the total occupied territory, most of which had an Azeri majority.”

“The UN Security Council, the Council of Europe, the OSCE and the European Parliament have passed resolutions or issued statements in order to settle the matter. Solutions have always failed due to the resistance of Armenia. The objective is still the same today: to restore the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, to discontinue the Armenian military occupation and ensure that the refugees could return home. Therefore Jobbik re-submits its draft resolution of April 11, 2011, this time also mentioning the countries in the explanation which adopted proclamations condemning the Khojaly genocide in the past two years.

Jobbik Movement for a Better Hungary - as a token of the solidarity of Turan kinship - supports Azerbaijan`s efforts to restore the truth, solve the conflict and make a long-term peace,” the document says.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1061003>**

**Pakistani DNA news agency`s website and Centreline magazine issue article on Khojaly genocide  
(February 26, 2013)**

The Pakistani DNA news agency`s website and Centreline magazine have issued an article titled “The Crime in Khojaly: Perpetrators Should be brought to book”.

The article reads: “At the end of 1987, the Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia openly laid claim to the territory of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (NKAO) of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan. Contrary to the Constitution of the USSR, which guaranteed the territorial integrity and inviolability of borders of the Union Republics, both the Armenian SSR and members of the Armenian community of the NKAO adopted a number of decisions to institute the process of unilateral secession of the autonomous region from Azerbaijan.

The logical consequence of the territorial claims against Azerbaijan was the occupation in 1992-1993 of a significant part of its territory, including Nagorno-Karabakh and seven adjacent districts. The war led to the deaths and wounding of thousands of people; hundreds of thousands became refugees and were forcibly displaced and several thousand disappeared without trace.

The capture of Khojaly was particularly tragic. Before the conflict, 7,000 people lived in this town of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan inhabited by the Azerbaijanis. From October 1991, the town was entirely surrounded by the Armenian forces. Over the night from the 25th and 26th of February 1992, following massive artillery bombardment of Khojaly, the assault on the town began from various directions. The infantry regiment of the former Soviet army stationed in Nagorno-Karabakh, participated directly in the capture of Khojaly by the Armenian armed units. The attack and capture of the town involved the extermination of hundreds of Azerbaijanis, including women, children and the elderly with medieval brutality, and thousands of civilians were wounded and taken hostage, many of whom remain missing, while the town was razed to the ground.

The Armenian author Markar Melkonian, who dedicated his book to his brother — Monte Melkonian, who personally took part in the assault on Khojaly, describes in detail how Armenian soldiers butchered the peaceful inhabitants of this town. Thus, as he puts it, “some inhabitants of Khojalyi had almost made it to safety, after fleeing for nearly six miles, when “[Armenian] soldiers had chased them down”. The soldiers, in his words, “unsheathed the knives they had carried on their hips for so long, and began stabbing”.

It should be particularly noted that the Khojaly events took place in a period when the incumbent president Serzh Sargsyan of Armenia served as head of the illegal separatist regime`s “Self-Defence Forces Committee” and, accordingly, his recollections constitute one of the most important sources of evidence.

The following words by Serzh Sargsyan leave no doubts as to the question of the perpetrator of the crimes in Khojaly: “Before Khojali, the Azerbaijanis thought that they were joking with us, they thought that the Armenians were people who could not raise their hand against the civilian population. We were able to break that [stereotype]. And that`s what happened...”.

In its judgment of 22 April 2010, the European Court of Human Rights qualified the massacre of the Azerbaijani civilian population of the Khojaly town as “acts of particular gravity which may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity”.

Given the gravity of the crime committed against the Azerbaijani civilian population in Khojaly, the question, however, is whether there is a clear evidence of the commission of genocide, as that term has been defined in international law. In 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, to which both Armenia and Azerbaijan are parties.”

The full text of the article is available at

<http://dnanews.com.pk/the-crime-in-khojaly-perpetrators-should-be-brought-to-book/>.

<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1060957>

**Rally on Khojaly genocide held in Strasbourg  
(February 26, 2013)**

Strasbourg-based House of Azerbaijan has held a rally in the Place Kléber, the city's central square, on the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

The rally was supported by various organizations functioning in Strasbourg, including Society of Cultural Relations with Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan Society of Culture and Association of Azerbaijani Students in France.

Hundreds of Azerbaijanis condemned atrocities of Armenians against Khojaly's innocent people.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1061080>**

**Greek newspaper publishes Azerbaijani ambassador`s interview on Khojaly massacre  
(February 26, 2013)**

Greek newspaper Kosmos has published an interview of Azerbaijani Ambassador to the country Rahman Mustafayev on Khojaly massacre.

The interview highlights the history of Khojaly, and the chronology of the tragedy.

The ambassador said Armenia`s political figures and ASALA terrorist organization leaders were responsible for the crimes against civilians on February 25-26, 1992, in Khojaly.

Mustafayev said a number of international organizations and parliaments of foreign countries recognized the massacre as an act of genocide.

He hailed the “Justice for Khojaly” campaign, an initiative of vice-president of Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva, as a success.

The interview of ambassador Mustafayev was republished by [athenspress.gr](http://athenspress.gr), [briefingnews.gr](http://briefingnews.gr), and [egiakoumis.gr](http://egiakoumis.gr) websites.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1061034>**

**Signature collection campaign on Khojaly genocide launched in Hannover  
(February 26, 2013)**

A signature collection campaign on the Khojaly genocide has been launched in Hannover, Germany. The campaign was organized by the “Hannover Anatolian Eagles” diaspora organization and Azerbaijan Students Union.

The campaign condemns the perpetrators of the massacre and demands its recognition as genocide on an international scale.

The campaign activists will raise the awareness of the local population on the history and consequences of the Khojaly genocide.

The collection of signatures will be sent to the German Bundestag and the European Parliament.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1061043>**

**Khojaly victims commemorated in Kars  
(February 26, 2013)**

Azerbaijan`s Consulate General has today organized an event to mark the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

A moment of silence was observed for the genocide`s victims.

Addressing to the event, Consul general Aykhan Suleymanov described the Khojaly genocide as one of the most horrible tragedy of the 20th century.

He said “the Armenian military forces together with 366th infantry regiment of the former Soviet stationed in Khankendi attacked Khojaly, which was under siege for months, and in one night the city was wiped off the face of the earth. Ruthless massacre of civilians was organized during this bloody action - 613 killed, 1275 taken hostages. The fate of 150 is still unknown. 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men were among those killed. 8 families were completely destroyed.

The massed firing with using artillery weapon, hard military equipment, which was began in the evening of February 25, preceded assault of the city.

As a result of this the fire began in the city and by five o'clock in the morning the whole city was in fire. The population (about 2500 people) remained in the city were forced to leave their houses in the hope to find the way to Aghdam - the district center and the nearest place mainly populated by Azerbaijanis.”

Suleymanov praised solidarity of the Turkish people, saying like Azerbaijanis this tragedy would never been forgotten by the Turkish people too. He stressed that the Khojaly massacre was not a terrible crime against only Azerbaijanis, but all the humanity.

The event also saw a documentary in Turkish about the tragedy.

Participants of the event viewed a photo stand featuring the brutality of Armenians, as well as books and magazines on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The Consulate General also gave a funeral repast in honor of the Khojaly martyrs.

<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1061059>

**Protest rally on Khojaly genocide held in Switzerland  
(February 26, 2013)**

Azerbaijanis' Cultural Center in Switzerland has held a protest rally on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide in Bern.

The rally was held under the Justice for Khojaly International Awareness Campaign, an initiative of Vice-president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva.

The event was attended by members of the Azerbaijani diaspora, Azerbaijani students and intellectuals.

They carried posters with slogans “Justice for Khojaly”, “Armenia, stop ethnic cleansing against Azerbaijanis” and “Bring to justice those responsible for the Khojaly genocide”.

The campaign activists raised the awareness of local population of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the Khojaly genocide by distributing books and brochures in English, German and French languages. They also collected signatures for a petition on the Khojaly genocide and submitted it to the Swiss Parliament.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1061091>**

**Russian regions commemorate victims of Khojaly genocide  
(February 26, 2013)**

Azerbaijanis living in Russia commemorated victims of the Khojaly genocide, the press service of the State Committee for Work with Diaspora said on Tuesday.

Azerbaijani Diaspora organizations in many regions and cities of Russia held ceremonies of remembrance of victims of the Khojaly genocide.

A moment of silence to honor the victims of the Khojaly genocide was declared during the events, held in the Amur, Ryazan, Murmansk, Kostroma, Voronezh and other regions, as well as in the Stavropol krai, the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District, and Chuvash Republic, participants of which were given information regarding the horrors experienced on February 26, 1992. The event condemned the atrocities committed by Armenian armed forces against the civilian population of Khojaly.

Documentary and feature films were presented at the events.

The commemoration ceremony was attended by representatives of local governments, the Azerbaijani Diaspora, intellectuals, businessmen and youth.

On Feb.25-26 February, 1992, Armenian occupation forces together with the 366th infantry regiment of Soviet troops stationed in Khankendi (previously Stepanakert) committed an act of genocide towards the population of the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly.

Some 613 people were killed including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were killed, 130 children lost one parent and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1275 innocent residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

**<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh/2124138.html>**

**Texas congressman urged his colleagues to commemorate the victims of Khojaly  
(February 27, 2013)**

"As the United States and Azerbaijan continue to develop closer relations - relations which have proven immensely valuable to both nations, it is important to take the time to remember the Khojaly Massacre which took place in Azerbaijan 21 years ago, on February 25-26, 1992", said Gene Green, congressman of Texas, in the House of Representatives on February 25.

Newsweek described the victims of Khojaly as "ordinary Azerbaijani men, women, and children," separate from the on-going military conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

According to his words, remembrance of the Khojaly Massacre has become nearly forgotten outside Azerbaijan's borders, despite the shocking nature of these events. "This is unconscionable for our country, which has always fought to safeguard the human rights of all people", noted Green.

He emphasized the support of Azerbaijan to US in connection with terrorist attacks of September 11, 2011. "Azerbaijan shared in our grief and pledged to stand by the United States as we brought the perpetrators to justice. True to their word, Azerbaijan has supported allied efforts against international terrorism by allowing unrestricted access to their territory for aircraft, troops, and supplies, as well as committing their own troops to fight alongside our own", noted the Congressman.

"Just as Azerbaijan has supported our nation in its time of need, so too must we not let the massacre of the 613 Azerbaijani men, women, and children drift into the dim memory of history.

I urge my colleagues to commemorate this terrible tragedy and continue our nation's support for the people of Azerbaijan, our partners in peace and prosperity for the Caspian Region", said Green.

<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh/2124175.html>

**North Carolina congresswoman urged her colleagues to commemorate the victims of Khojaly  
(February 27, 2013)**

"Since declaring its independence from the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan has been a reliable friend and valuable ally of the United States in a turbulent region. In this true spirit of friendship, it seems appropriate for Congress to commemorate the victims of the Khojaly tragedy as Azerbaijani people mark the 21st anniversary of this event", said Virginia Foxx, Congresswoman of North Carolina, in the House of Representatives in North Carolina on February 25.

According to her words, human rights organizations described the advancing forces as having committed unconscionable acts of violence against civilians as they fled. The bodies of fallen men, women and children were observed by foreign journalists who visited the region in the wake of the tragedy. "Given our deepening ties with Azerbaijan, it is important for American citizens to remember this event", noted the congresswoman.

"Twenty-one years later, the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict has not yet been fully resolved. The anniversary of this horrible tragedy is an appropriate time to honor the victims of these atrocities and reflect on the need for all parties to work together to bring a swift end to this conflict. I urge my colleagues to join me in standing with Azerbaijanis as they commemorate this tragedy", said Foxx.

**<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh/2124182.html>**

**Ohio congressman joined his colleagues in commemorating the victims of Khojaly  
(February 27, 2013)**

"I join my colleagues and people all over the world in recognizing the tragedy known as the Khojaly Massacre which occurred on February 26, 1992 in the small Azerbaijani town of Khojaly. The attack resulted in the massacre of 613 Azerbaijani civilians and is one of the most devastating acts of violence in the South Caucasus in recent history", said Congressman Tim Ryan in the House of Representatives of Ohio on February 25.

According to his words, the numerous casualties and acts of torture in the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan underscore the need for a political-rather than a military-solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. A fair and comprehensive settlement is the only effective tool to encourage stability, prosperity, and a lasting peace in the region.

"As co-chair of the Minsk Group, the United States remains committed to working with both sides to that end. With that goal in mind, we remember and mourn the 613 victims of Khojaly and work together to safeguard the human rights of all", said Ryan.

<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh/2124183.html>

**Saudi Arabian “Ar-Riyad” newspaper publishes Azerbaijani ambassador`s article on Khojaly genocide  
(February 27, 2013)**

The Saudi Arabia-based “Ar-Riyad” newspaper has published Azerbaijani ambassador Rasim Rzayev`s article on the 21st anniversary of Khojaly genocide.

The article briefs readers on the massacre committed by the Armenian armed forces and 366 motor-infantry regiment of former USSR against innocent civilians of Azerbaijan in Khojaly.

The article says as a result of the bloodshed committed by Armenians in Khojaly in 1992, 613 innocent civilians including 63 children, 106 women and 70 elderly people were killed and 1275 were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

The ambassador underlines the necessity of increasing the world community`s awareness of the Khojaly tragedy, giving international legal and political assessment to this massacre. The diplomat writes those bearing responsibility for committing this crime must be punished.

The article goes on to say that some countries have given political and legal assessment to Khojaly genocide. The Khojaly tragedy was described as a crime against humanity in the final document adopted in the summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference held in Cairo. Heads of state and government of OIC member states called the international community in the document to recognize the Khojaly tragedy as genocide.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1061213>**

**“Korea Times” newspaper publishes article on Khojaly genocide  
(February 27, 2013)**

The “Korea Times” newspaper has published an article entitled “Khojaly genocide: the most horrible genocide of the 21st century”.

The article informs readers on the attack of the Armenian armed forces and 366 motor-infantry regiment of former USSR to Khojaly on February 26 1992 and the occupation of 20 percent of Azerbaijani territories. It says in the wake of the massacre committed in Khojaly 613 innocent were brutally killed, while 1275 were taken hostage. “The Human Rights Watch described the Khojaly tragedy as the largest massacre to date in the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.”

The author underlines though the UN Security Council adopted four resolutions on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict Armenian armed forces do not leave the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

The article also briefs readers on the “Justice for Khojaly” campaign initiated by vice-president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1061217>**

**Memory of Khojaly tragedy`s victims commemorated in Montenegro  
(February 27, 2013)**

The Embassy of Azerbaijan in Montenegro has organized an event to commemorate the memory of the Khojaly tragedy`s victims.

The event participants were briefed on barbaric acts committed by Armenians against innocent people of Azerbaijan in Khojaly. The speakers at the event condemned Armenia`s aggressive policy against Azerbaijan and called on the international community not to remain indifferent to this crime against humanity.

The participants were also informed of the work done as part of the “Justice for Khojaly” campaign initiated by vice-president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva. They also saw a documentary prepared by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation featuring the Khojaly tragedy.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1061215>**

**Khojaly victims commemorated in Malaysia**  
**(February 27, 2013)**

Azerbaijan`s Embassy to Malaysia has held an event marking the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy in Kuala Lumpur.

The event was attended by Malaysian state officials, as well as representatives of local companies.

Azeri ambassador Tahir Karimov provided an insight into history and consequences of the khojaly massacre, as well as Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Books and brochures on the Khojaly massacre were exhibited at the hall and were distributed to the event participants.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1061597>**

**Batumi hosts event dedicated to Khojaly massacre  
(February 27, 2013)**

Consulate General of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Batumi, Georgia, hosted a ceremony dedicated to the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide. The event was attended by senior officials of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, heads of diplomatic missions accredited in Adjara, students of Batumi State University

Consulate General of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Batumi, Georgia, hosted a ceremony dedicated to the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

The event was attended by senior officials of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, heads of diplomatic missions accredited in Adjara, students of Batumi State University, representatives of the media, members of the Azerbaijani and other communities of the autonomous republic.

Addressing the event, Azerbaijani Consul General in Batumi Huseyn Najafov said that Khojaly tragedy is one of the most serious crimes against humanity.

The Khojaly Massacre was the killing of hundreds of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians from the town of Khojaly on 25–26 February 1992 by the Armenian and, partially, by CIS armed forces during the Nagorno-Karabakh War. The massacre was committed by the ethnic Armenian armed forces, reportedly with help of the Russian 366th Motor Rifle Regiment, apparently not acting on orders from the command. The death toll was 613 civilians, including 106 women and 83 children. Some 1,275 people, including old men, women and children were taken captive. The event became the largest massacre in the course of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

In 1994, on the initiative of Heydar Aliyev, the Azerbaijani parliament has declared February 26 Day of Khojaly genocide.

Najafov informed the participants that in May, 2008 an international campaign "Justice for Khojaly" was launched on the initiative of Leyla Aliyeva, General Coordinator of Intercultural Dialogue for the Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The Organization of the Islamic Conference, uniting 57 member countries, recognized the Khojaly tragedy as an act of genocide committed by Armenian armed forces against Azerbaijani civilians and called this tragedy as a crime against humanity. Khojaly genocide was also recognized by Pakistan, Mexico, Czech Republic, Colombia and the U.S. states - Massachusetts, Texas, Georgia, New Jersey, Maine, New Mexico and Arkansas.

The event also addressed by the professor of Batumi State University, Dr Rostom Guntaishvili. He gave a legal assessment of the tragedy and described the violence against the civilian population as an act of genocide against the Azerbaijani people. Professor Guntaishvili urged participants to support the people of Azerbaijan in Justice for Khojaly campaign.

The event showcased the documentary film "Khojaly genocide", produced by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

The event participants viewed photo exhibition, press releases and other materials on Khojaly genocide. The victims of Khojaly genocide were commemorated by a one-minute silence. The event was broadcasted by "Adjara TV".

<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1061538>

**University of Massachusetts hosts event on 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Khojaly genocide  
(February 27, 2013)**

The Azerbaijani Student Association has organized a commemorative ceremony on the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide at the University of Massachusetts.

The event provided an insight into the history and consequences of the Khojaly tragedy, and featured a photo exhibition reflecting the Armenians' atrocities against Azerbaijani civilians.

Organizers held a signature collection campaign for the recognition of the Khojaly accident as genocide.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1061640>**

**Sheffield Azerbaijan Society hosts event on Khojaly tragedy  
(February 27, 2013)**

Sheffield Azerbaijan Society has organized an event to commemorate victims of the Khojaly genocide. Initiated by head of Society Javid Mammadzade, the event brought together Azerbaijani and foreign students

Sheffield Azerbaijan Society has organized an event to commemorate victims of the Khojaly genocide.

Initiated by head of Society Javid Mammadzade, the event brought together Azerbaijani and foreign students.

The event participants distributed books and brochures about the Khojaly tragedy and the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh problem among more than 500 people.

A documentary in which students express their support of the Justice for Khojaly campaign was demonstrated at the event.

Sheffield Azerbaijani Society released a statement on the Khojaly tragedy to be published in the University of Sheffield's newspaper.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1061628>**

**Chairman of Turkish Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee  
releases statement on 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Khojaly genocide  
(February 27, 2013)**

Chairman of the Turkish Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee Volkan Bozkir has released a statement on the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

The statement condemns the attack of the Armenian armed forces and 366 motor-infantry regiment of former USSR on Khojaly on February 26, 1992 and the occupation of 20 percent of Azerbaijani lands.

It says that in the wake of the massacre committed in Khojaly 613 innocent were brutally killed, while 1275 were taken hostage.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1061693>**

**Libyan Foundation of Human Rights issues statement on Khojaly massacre  
(February 27, 2013)**

The Libyan Foundation of Human Rights has released a statement on the Khojaly massacre.

The statement says that on February 25-26 February, 1992, Armenian the Armenian armed forces and 366 motor-infantry regiment of former USSR committed an act of genocide against the population of the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly.

Some 613 people were killed including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were killed, 130 children lost one parent and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1275 innocent residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

The copies of the statement will be sent to the Libyan national congress and the U.N.

NGO Libya Human Rights was founded on November 11, 2011 in Tripoli.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1061562>**

**Khojaly victims remembered in US  
(February 28, 2013)**

An event marking the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy has been held at the German Cultural Centre named after polymath Johann Wolfgang von Goethe in Washington, The US.

The event co-organized by Azerbaijan`s Embassy to the US and US Azeris Network, brought together Members of Azerbaijan`s Parliament, as well as State officials of the US, employees of the diplomatic corpus accredited in the country, representatives of Azerbaijani Turkish and Jewish communities.

The event was started with a one-minute-silence in memory of the Khojaly victims.

The event saw speeches by the country`s ambassador to US, as well as Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Illinois's 14th District Randy Hultgren, executive director of the US Azeris Network (USAN) Adil Bagirov, Executive Director of the Karabakh Foundation functioning in the United States Diana Cohen Altman.

Ambassador Elin Suleymanov briefed the event participants on the history of the tragedy, which claimed the lives of 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 olds.

“A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide committed by the Armenian military forces in the town of Khojaly on February 26, 1992.”

“Eight families were completely annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.”

The event also featured an exhibition on Khojaly massacre supported by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, as well as Narmina Valiyeva`s art works presented by Karabakh Foundation.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1061775>**

**Egyptian “Ash-Shuruq” newspaper publishes article on Khojaly genocide  
(February 28, 2013)**

The Egypt-based “Ash-Shuruq” newspaper has published an article entitled “Unpunished crimes and rights without support.”

The author of the article Ahmad Tarabik writes in the article about the genocide committed by Armenians in Khojaly on February 26 in 1992. He underlines that the Khojaly events happened as part of Armenia`s aggression against Azerbaijan.

The article says that in the wake of the Armenian aggressive policy 20 percent of Azerbaijani territories was occupied and more than one million Azerbaijanis became IDPs.

The author expresses regret that the international community remains indiffererent to the bloodshed committed in Khojaly.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1061793>**

**Pakistan`s Comsats Institute hosts seminar on Khojaly genocide  
(February 28, 2013)**

The Azerbaijan–Pakistan Foundation has organized a seminar on the Khojaly genocide at the COMSATS Institute in the city of Lahore, the capital of the province of Punjab.

The event was attended by teachers and students of the COMSATS Institute and other higher educational institutions of Punjab.

A message of Azerbaijani ambassador to Pakistan Dashgin Shikarov on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the Khojaly genocide was read out to the event participants. The ambassador highly appreciated in the message the Pakistani government`s position on the conflict and the adoption by the country`s Senate of a resolution recognizing the Khojaly genocide.

President of the Azerbaijan–Pakistan Foundation Chaudhry Naman Zafar briefed the event participants on the history of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. He said as a result of Armenia`s aggressive policy against Azerbaijan 20 percent of territories of Azerbaijan was occupied and more than one million people were driven from their homes. He described the genocide committed by Armenian armed forces in Khojaly in 1992 as the most tragic page of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Zafar also drew the audience`s attention to the fact that official Yerevan does not honor resolutions on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict adopted by international organizations.

Speaking at the event, professor Abdus Sattar said though some international organizations and parliaments of several countries recognized the Khojaly genocide, the world community still remains indifferent and do not give proper legal assessment to this tragedy. Professor of COMSATS Fuad Javid called the Khojaly events barbaric acts. He said those who committed the Khojaly genocide must be punished.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1061794>**

**UK première of Khojaly 613 by Pierre Thilloy moves a London audience  
(February 28, 2013)**

An audience of more than 500 people, including Lords, MPs, diplomats and music-lovers, attended the Khojaly Commemoration Concert on 26 February at St. John's, Smith Square, in the shadow of the Houses of Parliament. The concert was organised by The European Azerbaijan Society (TEAS) in order to commemorate

An audience of more than 500 people, including Lords, MPs, diplomats and music-lovers, attended the Khojaly Commemoration Concert on 26 February at St. John's, Smith Square, in the shadow of the Houses of Parliament. The concert was organised by The European Azerbaijan Society (TEAS) in order to commemorate the 613 civilians killed on 26 February 1992 in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly, Nagorno-Karabakh, when it was forcibly occupied by Armenian armed forces, supported by the No. 366 Soviet Infantry Regiment. The evening featured the London-based Orion Orchestra under the baton of the leading conductor and composer Laurent Petitgirard.

The centrepiece of the evening was the UK première of a moving new piece, Khojaly 613, composed by Pierre Thilloy, dedicated to the victims of the Khojaly tragedy, which received its world première in Paris on 21 February. The work was written for violin, balaban, percussion and string orchestra. Featured was the evocative sound of the balaban, an Azerbaijani wind instrument, performed by the internationally-acclaimed virtuoso Shirzad Fataliyev. The violinist was Sabina Rakcheyeva, the first Azerbaijani graduate from the Juilliard School in New York and Cultural Advisor, TEAS.

This outstanding work ably captured the horror of the Khojaly Massacre, featuring Azerbaijani folk tunes, including Lachin and Sari Gelin, set against a rich orchestral backdrop of military march rhythms and the sounds of conflict. The violin and balaban – which has a plaintive quality, akin to the human voice – represented the soul of the Azerbaijani people that fateful night, with the violin solo section gradually reaching a furious tempo until coming to a sudden, unexpected halt.

Writing about the piece, the composer said: “The Khojaly Massacre ranks amongst one of the most vivid and nightmarish visions in the collective memory of the Azerbaijani people, stemming from the dark, insidious Nagorno-Karabakh conflict that continues to harm an entire people.

“There is a mechanism, commonly called ‘memory’, which, far from providing vulgar pathos, is a bulwark against oblivion, and operates as a timeless sentinel of dignity. ‘Memory’ has always been a creative banner for composers and artists, who, beyond any political or revolutionary context, are able to remind others of milestones, troubled moments, and dramas, which touch the very depths of their soul.”

Fakhraddin Gurbanov, Azerbaijani Ambassador to the UK, said: “The tragedy happened exactly 21 years ago today. At that time, the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia was taking place, and we still remain at war, although a ceasefire was declared in 1994. The Khojaly Massacre was one of the blackest pages in the history of our nation. It is apt that this concert is taking place in a former church. Whether it is a church, mosque or temple, these are the houses of God. Human beings are the creatures of God, who gave us life, and only God has the right to take away life. Those people who took away the lives of these 613 people have never been brought to justice. International law forbids the killing of civilians, and this was a crime. Such terrible occurrences must never be repeated.”

Tale Heydarov, Chairman, TEAS commented: “The UK has been through two world wars, which were the biggest in the history of mankind, and Europe lost millions of people. Today, we see a stable Europe. Those wars have taught people a big lesson. Those people who committed crimes were brought to justice. This was not the case with the perpetrators of the Khojaly Massacre, which was a planned offensive against civilians.”

Christopher Pincher MP, Chair, Azerbaijan All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) continued: “All those who died were someone's husband, wife, daughter, or son. The Nagorno-Karabakh war has a continuing impact. The great English philosopher Edmund Burke said that: ‘Those who do not know their history are destined to repeat it.’ We must never repeat the horrors of 26 February 1992. It is the responsibility of those who seek greater friendship with Azerbaijan to remember this, and to play their part in remembering the victims and ensuring that it never happens again.”

The programme also included the Nizami Symphony by the Azerbaijani composer Fikret Amirov (1922–84), which was inspired by the work of the 12th century Azerbaijani poet Nizami Ganjavi. This piece demonstrated his synthesis of western classical techniques and glorious, passionate Azerbaijani mugham, known as ‘symphonic mugham’. It is generally acknowledged that mugham music originated in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, which remains occupied by Armenia. This ongoing occupation has caused the camps housing 875,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees to be spread across Azerbaijan.

This emotional evening also included the angelic sound of the Schola Cantorum of the Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School Choir, performing two pieces dedicated to Christ`s suffering on the Cross – Pergolesi`s Stabat Mater and Mozart`s Ave Verum Corpus. Also on the programme was Sir Edward Elgar`s elegiac Introduction and Allegro for Strings, a multilayered symphonic poem, featuring polyphonic interwoven themes and a fragment of a Welsh traditional song. As an encore, the string orchestra performed a piece of meditative music by Laurent Petitgirard, written for a section of the film *Ecrire contre l`oubli* (Lest We Forget).

This beautiful music and evocative setting had an undeniable impact on all those in attendance, making them aware of the terrible events of 21 years ago, and of the ongoing plight of the Azerbaijanis who remain unable to their homes and lands.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1061833>**

**Azerbaijanis hold rally in Hague in memory of Khojaly victims  
(February 28, 2013)**

Ana Vatan' Association of Azerbaijani Women of the Netherlands, Holland - Azerbaijan – Turkey Cultural center, Azerbaijani youth living in the Netherlands and Dutch friend of Azerbaijan Gert Van Damme on Feb. 26 initiated a rally in Hague, Netherlands to commemorate the 21st anniversary of Khojaly massacre.

The demonstrators marched to the Armenian embassy where they demanded peaceful settlement of Karabakh conflict and cessation of Armenia's aggression against the Azerbaijani people.

The participants of the rally submitted a petition to the Armenian embassy.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1061877>**

**Azerbaijanis hold rally in Hague in memory of Khojaly victims (February 28, 2013)**

Ana Vatan' Association of Azerbaijani Women of the Netherlands, Holland - Azerbaijan – Turkey Cultural center, Azerbaijani youth living in the Netherlands and Dutch friend of Azerbaijan Gert Van Damme on Feb. 26 initiated a rally in Hague, Netherlands to commemorate the 21st anniversary of Khojaly massacre.

The demonstrators marched to the Armenian embassy where they demanded peaceful settlement of Karabakh conflict and cessation of Armenia's aggression against the Azerbaijani people.

The participants of the rally submitted a petition to the Armenian embassy.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1061877>**

**Book "Karabakh Stories" presented to German public  
(February 28, 2013)**

The book "Karabakh stories" by Azerbaijani writer Gunel Anargizi was presented here on the occasion of the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Khojaly Genocide.

The book was translated into German and prepared in Azerbaijani and Russian languages in form of audio books.

The event was organized by the State Committee for Diaspora Affairs brought together Azerbaijani ambassador Parviz Shahbazov, MP Rovshan Rzayev, German and Azerbaijani politicians, Azerbaijani students and others.

Executive Director of the Coordination Centre of Azerbaijanis in Germany, Chairman of the European Azerbaijanis Congress Samira Patzer underlined the importance of Karabakh stories, adding this is the first publication in German dedicated to the Khojaly tragedy.

Ambassador Parviz Shahbazov spoke about the importance of such projects for both countries, and various aspects of Azerbaijan-Germany relations.

The writer answered questions concerning the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, IDPs and the project itself.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1062211>**

**Georgian youth commemorate Khojaly tragedy  
(February 28, 2013)**

Events commemorating the Khojaly genocide have been held in the Georgian cities of Batumi, Zugdidi, Kutaisi and Gori as part of Justice for Khojaly campaign.

The events, organized by the Azerbaijan Student Association of Georgia and the Azerbaijan National Council of Youth Organizations, brought together more than 300 Georgian youth.

The events provided an insight into the Armenians` atrocities against Azerbaijanis in Khojaly.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1062314>**

**Jordan`s news agency posts article on Khojaly genocide  
(February 28, 2013)**

Jordan`s Al-Uruba news agency posted an article about the commemorative event held in Azerbaijani embassy on the occasion of the Khojaly genocide`s 21st anniversary.

Speeches by event participants, including deputy chairman of Jordan Senate, head of executive board of the Jordan-Azerbaijan Friendship Society Marwan Humud and writer Hattab were highlighted in the article.

The article says on the night of 25-26 February 1992, the Armenian armed forces, with participation of the Khankendi-based 366th motorized infantry regiment, attacked and ruined, in one night, the town of Khojaly, which had been encircled during months. In this bloody act, they brutally slaughtered civilians, murdering 613 people, abusing corpses, taking 1275 hostages. Of them, the fate of 150 remains unknown. Of the killed, 63 are children, 106 are women and 70 are elders. The military invasion completely wiped out 8 families.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1062359>**

**U.S. House of Representatives member issued a statement in connection with Khojaly tragedy  
(March 1, 2013)**

U.S. House of Representatives member Ed Pastor issued a statement in connection with Khojaly tragedy, Embassy of Azerbaijan to the U.S. told Trend.

"I rise today to remember the 21st Anniversary of the Khojaly Tragedy, which occurred in this small town in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan on February 25-26, 1992. In the early 1990s, Azerbaijan was involved in a brutal conflict with its neighbor to the West, Armenia , and the repercussions from atrocities committed during that time still impact diplomatic and economic relations today. The Khojaly Tragedy is perhaps the worst single incident that occurred during this time, resulting in hundreds of lives lost, families devastated, and the town destroyed", statement reads.

According to senator, since a cease-fire was negotiated in 1994, these two nations have been locked in a dispute over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, located within Azerbaijan but occupied by Armenian forces. The Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, of which the United States is a co-chair, was created to encourage a peaceful, negotiated resolution to this conflict, yet work remains in reaching this goal.

"In December 2012, Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Mammadyarov addressed this situation as follows: ``As a result, our relations with Armenia are practically nonexistent. There is also a distinct lack of economic cooperation and trade between our two countries. Azerbaijan wants peace so that we can continue to grow our economy, develop our energy resources and advance our relations with Europe and our neighbors. But Armenia also has a stake in peace with Azerbaijan. The country is isolated in the region largely because of this conflict. It is excluded from all regional infrastructure and energy projects, such as the oil and gas pipelines passing from the Caspian Sea to Turkey and Europe via Georgia, as well as a new railroad line between Azerbaijan and Turkey through Georgia, to be inaugurated this year. When we can agree on lasting peace, Armenia could become a stakeholder in these regional projects", - statement reads

According to Pastor, a peaceful resolution of this conflict would benefit not only Azerbaijan and Armenia , but would ensure security and economic growth for the South Caucasus region.

<http://en.trend.az/regions/world/usa/2125060.html>

**Khojaly victims commemorated in Poland  
(March 1, 2013)**

An event marking the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy has been held at Warsaw Museum of Independence in Poland.

The event brought together representatives of various organizations, as well as officials of Azerbaijani Diaspora, journalists, compatriots living in Poland.

The event saw speeches by Chairperson of the Azerbaijani Culture Centre Society Shahla Kazimova, Professor of the History of the Columbia and Warsaw Universities Tadeusz Swietochowski on Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Ambassador Hasan Hasanov briefed the event participants on the history of the tragedy, which claimed the lives of 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 olds.

“A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide committed by the Armenian military forces in the town of Khojaly on February 26, 1992.”

“Eight families were completely annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.”

The event also featured an exhibition on Khojaly massacre.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1062666>**

**Azerbaijan's representation in Tunisia commemorate Khojaly victims (March 1, 2013)**

An event to commemorate the memory of Khojaly tragedy's victims has been held in the Azerbaijan's representation in Tunisia. The event brought together Azerbaijani citizens living in Tunisia, representatives of diplomatic corps of countries, Turkish community public figures, Turkish correspondents of "Ash-Shurug" and "La-Press" organizations, as well as the members of Diaspora organizations and journalists.

The event started with a one-minute-silence in memory of the Khojaly victims.

Azerbaijani Charge d'Affaires in Tunis Mubariz Imanzade briefed the event participants on the Khojaly massacre committed by Armenian armed forces.

He said that on the night of 25-26 February 1992, the Armenian armed forces, with participation of the Khankendi-based 366th motorized infantry regiment, attacked and ruined, in one night, the town of Khojaly, which had been encircled during months.

After the national leader Heydar Aliyev initiative, the political and legal assessment was given to the Khojaly tragedy, and February 26 was declared the Day of the Khojaly Genocide.

This mission is continued by Ilham Aliyev, the worthy successor of the Heydar Aliyev policy.

Imanzade also stressed that this massacre is strongly condemned in many countries.

"Azerbaijanis will never forget Khojaly Massacre", added the Charge d'Affaires.

A documentary film on Khojaly was demonstrated at the event.

The event participants were handed over brochures, books on the Khojaly.

The article on Khojaly genocide was published in Ash-Shurug newspaper.

The publication says genocide in Khojaly can not be compared to any other tragedy in the world. Khojaly genocide victims are commemorated every year in Azerbaijan and other countries with deep mourning.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1062722>**

**Khojaly tragedy victims remembered in Canada  
(February 4, 2014)**

Azerbaijan`s Embassy in Canada and the Canada Azerbaijan Partnership Association have co-organized a commemorative ceremony in Toronto to mark the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly Genocide.

The event brought together Azerbaijani students studying at Waterloo and Toronto universities, as well as members of Azerbaijani community in the city.

Addressing the event, Ambassador Farid Shafiyev urged members of Azerbaijani community to strengthen their efforts towards making the country`s realities known to the Canadian society.

Chairman of the Canada Azerbaijan Partnership Association Ilham Akhundov stressed the importance of the installation of a monument to Khojaly Genocide in one of the central parks of Toronto in terms of increasing the Canadians`s awareness of the tragedy.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1188680>**

**Azerbaijanis in Magdeburg stage protest to commemorate Khojaly genocide victims  
(February 9, 2014)**

The Germany-Azerbaijan Culture Society has staged a protest in Magdeburg to commemorate victims of Khojaly genocide when Armenians massacred hundreds of innocent Azerbaijanis in 1992.

The two hour protest involved cars passing through the city`s central streets.

At a meeting following the event, chairman of the Society Yashar Niftaliyev said the protest was aimed at increasing the German society`s awareness of the Khojaly genocide and Armenians`s aggression against Azerbaijanis.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1190356>**

**Germany holds motor race dedicated to Khojaly tragedy  
(February 10, 2014)**

Events dedicated to the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy have started in Germany, Azerbaijani State Committee for Work with Diaspora said on Feb.10.

A motor race in the city of Magdeburg became one of these events, according to the committee.

During the motor race organized by Germany-Azerbaijan Culture Society, a car cortege moved through the city's streets for two hours with flags of Azerbaijan and placards with slogans "Armenians must withdraw from Karabakh!" , "Justice for Khojaly!".

During the action, the chairman of the culture society Yashar Niftaliyev informed the local residents about the brutality and atrocities of the Armenians against Azerbaijanis throughout history.

It is also planned to hold motor races, meetings and other events in Berlin, Dresden and other German cities.

On Feb.25-26, 1992 the Armenian occupation forces, together with the 366th infantry regiment of Soviet troops stationed in Khankendi committed an act of genocide against the population of the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly. Some 613 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old people. About 487 people among civilians became disabled as a result of bullet wounds. Eight families were totally exterminated, 130 children lost one parent and 25 children lost both. Some 1,275 innocent residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. Armenian armed forces have occupied 20 per cent of Azerbaijan since 1992, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts.

Azerbaijan and Armenia signed a ceasefire agreement in 1994. The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, Russia, France and the U.S. are currently holding peace negotiations.

Armenia has not yet implemented the U.N. Security Council's four resolutions on the liberation of the Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding regions.

<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh/2240018.html>

**Khojaly genocide victims commemorated at Masjid Istiqlal  
(February 15, 2014)**

Special prayers were made for victims of the Khojaly genocide as tens of thousands of believers, including high ranking government officials and prominent religious leaders gathered at the Masjid Istiqlal in Jakarta, the largest mosque in Indonesia and Southeast Asia, and the third largest mosque in the world.

Indonesian Muslims showed solidarity with Azerbaijanis, who mark the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the massacre of hundreds of innocent people in the town of Khojaly by Armenians, at Friday and collective prayers in the mosque, which has a total capacity of 120,000 people.

During Friday prayer Vice President of International Students Association of Indonesia Elmar Iskandarov provided an insight into consequences of Armenia`s aggression against Azerbaijan, particularly the occupation of the Nagorno-Karabakh and seven adjacent regions, and Khojaly genocide.

Following the prayer several Indonesian religious leaders and government officials spoke to Iskandarov to condemn Armenia`s occupation of the Azerbaijani lands and express their support for Azerbaijan on the Khojaly genocide issue.

In 2011, the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Conference (PU OIC) adopted a declaration supporting the international "Justice for Khojaly" campaign initiated by Vice President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1193024>**

**Declaration on Khojaly genocide sent to Swedish Parliament  
(February 16, 2014)**

A declaration condemning the genocide was sent to the Swedish Parliament (349 MPs), the government, the foreign ministry, as well as the offices of international organizations in Sweden at the initiative of the "For the sake of Azerbaijan" society on the eve of 22nd anniversary of Khojaly genocide, according to the State Committee for Work with the Diaspora.

On Feb.25-26, 1992 the Armenian occupation forces, together with the 366th infantry regiment of Soviet troops stationed in Khankendi committed an act of genocide against the population of the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly. Some 613 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old people. About 487 people among civilians became disabled as a result of bullet wounds. Eight families were totally exterminated, 130 children lost one parent and 25 children lost both. Some 1,275 innocent residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

Khojaly genocide is compared with the tragedies in Khatyn, Lidice and Oradour, according to the document.

The international community must know the truth about Khojaly tragedy, give a legal assessment of the crimes committed against humanity. Khojaly tragedy is another fact of ethnic cleansing and the genocide policy pursued by Armenian nationalists and their patrons against the Azerbaijani people, according to the declaration.

The declaration calls on the Swedish government and the world community not to remain indifferent to this tragedy.

"Perpetrators of the Khojaly genocide must be punished," according to a declaration.

<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh/2242239.html>

**Italian news portal features Khojaly tragedy  
(February 16, 2014)**

Italian “Agenzia Radicale” news portal has posted an article on the Khojaly tragedy.

The Khojaly genocide is referred to as the Srebrenica of the Caucasus in the article.

The article says on the night from February 25 to 26 in 1992, an unprecedented massacre was committed against the Azerbaijani population in the town of Khojaly. This is one of the most tragic events of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The author claims that the perpetrators of Khojaly genocide must be brought to an international trial.

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1193090>**

**Romanian AGERPRES news agency publishes article on 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Khojaly genocide  
(February 17, 2014)**

The Romanian National News Agency AGERPRES has posted an article commemorating the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy.

Titled “Historical injustice”, the article was written by Chairman of the Friendship Association Romania-Azerbaijan Dumitru Balan.

The article with the facts proves that the Nagorno-Karabakh is the historical land of Azerbaijan.

“20 percent of Azerbaijan`s territories have been kept under occupation by Armenia and over one million Azerbaijanis became refugees and IDPs as a result of the Armenian invasion. Armenia destroyed the historical monuments and churches in the occupied lands,” the article says.

The article notes several resolutions and documents have been adopted by the international organizations on occupation of Azerbaijan`s territories by Armenian Armed Forces.

“But negotiations have not yet produced any results because of Armenia`s non-constructive stance.”

**<http://www.azertag.gov.az/en/node/1193421>**

**Turkey`S Parliament magazine features Khojaly massacre  
(February 17, 2014)**

Turkey`s Parliament magazine has published an article on the Khojaly massacre.

The article, which contains horrible photographs of the tragedy, underlines that justice was not restored although 22 years have passed since the Khojaly genocide.

Author Deniz Varol said Khojaly is of special importance in the world history as one of the ancient settlement sites.

The article labeled Khojaly as a ‘natural museum’ given it has ancient monuments, which are important for Azerbaijan from the historical point of view.

The author provided an insight into the history and causes of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. He claims that the Khojaly genocide is one of the bloodiest chapters in the history of the Karabakh war. According to him, the stories of the genocide witnesses about physical and moral tortures are not tolerable. On February 26, 1992, a terrible tragedy happened in Khojaly before the very eyes of the world community. Helped by the 366th armored and infantry regiment the Armenian armed forces brutally massacred unarmed and defenseless Khojaly Azerbaijanis, including children, women and the elderly, and tortured those who survived. The massacre claimed lives of 613 civilians, including 106 women, 83 children, and 70 elders. Some 1,275 civilians were captured, with 150 of them still missing, it reads.

The article underlined that the Khojaly massacre was recognized as genocide by the parliaments of the US States of Massachusetts, Texas, New Jersey, Georgia, Mein, New Mexico, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Connecticut, Florida as well as Czech Republic, Mexico, Columbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Peru and Pakistan.

The information on the tragedy provided by world media outlets and Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan`s acknowledgement of committing the massacre on purpose can be found in the article.

The Parliament magazine`s special edition provided the interview with rector of the Giresun University of Turkey Aygun Attar.

The rector said in the interview that the Khojaly massacre`s recognition as the genocide is what the Turkic world is seeking. Attar underlined that despite the Bishkek protocol on cease-fire signed in 1994, the Karabakh problem continues with the heart of the Turkic world bleeding. He said turning a blind eye to the outrages on humanity committed in Khojaly and Srebrenica is as such a crime against humanity.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1194096>**

**Romania`s national news agency publishes article on Khojaly genocide  
(February 18, 2014)**

Romanian national news agency AGERPRES has posted an article on the Khojaly genocide by Bucharest-based correspondent of Azerbaijan State Telegraph Agency (AzerTAc) Igbal Hajiyev.

Written in Romanian, the article is headlined “Khojaly genocide - the most horrifying tragedy of the 20th century”.

The article says the Khojaly genocide is one of the most terrible and tragic pages of Azerbaijan`s history.

“The Khojaly genocide, which was part of Armenia`s policy of aggression against Azerbaijan, resulted in mass violation of the norms and principles of international law, human rights and freedoms.”

The article says that helped by the 366th armored and infantry regiment, which was located in the town of Khankendi, the Armenian armed forces brutally massacred unarmed and defenseless civilians in the town of Khojaly, including children, women and the elderly, and tortured those who survived.

“The massacre claimed lives of 613 civilians, including 106 women, 63 children, and 70 elders. Some 1,275 civilians were captured, with 150 of them still missing. Eight families were completely annihilated, 25 children lost both and 130 children lost one parent. Some 76 of a total of 487 wounded people were children.”

Hajiyev praised the role of national leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev in raising the international community`s awareness of the Khojaly tragedy.

The article urges the international community to condemn the perpetrators of the massacre as well as Armenia`s policy of military aggression against Azerbaijan.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1193861>**

**Avrupa Times Posts article on Khojaly genocide by Azertac`s London-based correspondent  
(February 21, 2014)**

British Avrupa Times newspaper has issued an article on the Khojaly genocide by AzerTAc`s special correspondent in London Orkhan Ismayilov. The article is titled “Khojaly Genocide – Ongoing injustice of the 20th century”.

The article begins with the citation from national leader Heydar Aliyev`s speech: “The Khojaly genocide with its inconceivable cruelty and inhuman punitive methods, was completely targeted against the people of Azerbaijan and represents a barbarian act in the history of humankind. At the same time, this genocide was a historical crime against humanity.”

Ismayilov writes that the Khojaly genocide, also known as the Khojaly tragedy, was the killing of hundreds of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians from the town of Khojaly on 25–26 February 1992 by the Armenian armed forces during the Nagorno-Karabakh War.

“The Khojaly genocide is one of the most terrible and tragic pages of Azerbaijan history. The people of Azerbaijan were deported from their historical lands and became refugees and internally displaced persons because of Armenian occupation. This tragedy was one of the most serious crimes not only against the people of Azerbaijan, but humanity as a whole.”

“During the invasion of Khojaly, Armenians destroyed the patterns of material culture that reflect the dynamics of social development. These are obvious examples of Armenian barbarism and aggression against the world culture. They excruciated children, elderly people and women. There is a great amount of visual proof of this brutality. Khojaly genocide terrifies journalists and publicists around the world when they obtain information about this massacre and barbarian acts of Armenians.”

The article says: “We believe and hope that authoritative international organizations like the UN, EU and OSCE, peaceful states will take measures against aggression and tyranny of Armenia. The world must know this crime directed not only against Azerbaijan nation, but also whole civilized world, mankind. Because as Martin Luther said: “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1195458>

**Monument to victims of Khojaly genocide unveiled in Turkey  
(February 21, 2014)**

A ceremony to unveil a monument to victims of the Khojaly genocide has been held in the city of Usak, Egey province, Turkey.

Speaking to the event, chairman of the Usak municipality Ali Erdogan said that the municipality council made a decision to mount the monument in memory of the Khojaly massacre victims in one of the most beautiful places of the city. He underlined that the Khojaly massacre is the tragedy for Turkey too and the Turkish people share sorrow of their Azerbaijani brothers.

Azerbaijan's consul general in Istanbul Hasan Zeynalov said that the monument is the symbol of solidarity between Turkey and Azerbaijan.

Deputy Chief of the Azerbaijani Presidential Administration's department for socio-political affairs Arastun Mehdiyev briefed the participants about the Khojaly genocide. On behalf of the government and people of Azerbaijan, Mehdiyev thanked the Turkish people and Usak municipality for erecting the monument.

Mert Kilinc, who made the monument, hailed ties between Azerbaijan and Turkey. He underlined the need to mount such monuments in other cities too.

The ceremony participants viewed an exhibition on the Khojaly massacre arranged in the park where the monument was erected.

The ceremony was followed by Do Not Forget Khojaly seminar at the Usak University.

Opening the event, rector of the University Sait Celik said that the university remembers the Khojaly victims every year. Celik noted he keeps a close eye on the rapid development of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan's consul general Hasan Zeynalov said that holding remembrance ceremonies in the Turkish cities helps not to forget the past. He addressed the students, saying they must be worthy citizens and good students in order to prevent such tragedies from happening again.

Arastun Mehdiyev described the Khojaly massacre as a crime against the whole Turkic world. He said international forces want to use Armenian fictitious accusations of the "1915 genocide" against Turkey. According to him, universities must study this issue in order to educate the future generations.

MP Agil Abbas and Chairman of the Culture and Education Fund of Azerbaijanis in Turkey Erol Gollu spoke about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Khojaly genocide and atrocities committed by the Armenian gangs.

<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1195364>

**Moldovan newspaper issues article on Khojaly genocide  
(February 21, 2014)**

Moldova-based Expert News newspaper has published an article on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

Headlined "February – The Month of Khojaly", the article describes the tragedy as the bloodiest page in the history of Azerbaijan.

It says that in just one night, the Armenian armed forces wiped the town of Khojaly off the face of the earth. "The massacre claimed lives of 613 civilians, including 106 women, 63 children, and 70 elders. Some 1,275 civilians were captured, with 150 of them still missing. Eight families were completely annihilated, 25 children lost both and 130 children lost one parent. Some 76 of a total of 487 wounded people were children."

The article features quotes from foreign journalists who witnessed the brutality of Armenians in Khojaly.

It also praises the role of Justice for Khojaly awareness campaign launched by Vice President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, chief coordinator of Intercultural Dialogue of the Youth Forum of Islamic Conference for Dialogue and Cooperation, Leyla Aliyeva, in making the truth about the tragedy known to the world community.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1195663>**

**Cairo TV channel airs program on Khojaly genocide  
(February 21, 2014)**

Egypt's Cairo television channel has telecast a program about the Khojaly genocide.

The program featured "A Destroyed City" documentary, which provided an insight into the consequences of the Khojaly genocide.

The program also featured an interview with Azerbaijani Ambassador Shahin Abdullayev. He said that in late 80s Armenia laid territorial claims against Azerbaijan.

“The genocide committed in Khojaly by the Armenian armed forces together with the 366th infantry regiment of former Soviet troops in Khankandi was one of the unprecedented crimes against humanity.”

The Ambassador said the Armenian government was fully responsible for the tragedy.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1195701>**

**Azerbaijani diaspora organization in Egypt issues statement on Khojaly genocide  
(February 22, 2014)**

Azerbaijani diaspora organization in Egypt has sent a statement on the Khojaly Genocide to Arabian countries, particularly agencies, embassies, consulates, and public bodies in Egypt.

The statement reads: “At the night from 25th to 26th February of 1992, the crime committed in Khojaly city by Armenian armed forces together with the 366th motoartillery regiment of the former Soviet army in Khankandi was one of the unprecedented events not only in the history of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict but also of the world warfare due to its horrible results. A lot of heavy military equipment of this regiment also consisting of Armenian officers entered the city; totally destroyed and burned down the houses and social infrastructure. The perpetrators annihilated people who were forced to leave the city in horror.

During the Khojaly genocide, 613 people whose names were known, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 old people were killed. 487 peaceful civilians were injured and became disabled, 1275 civilians were taken captive and hostages. The fate of 150 missing persons remains still unknown. During this massacre eight families were totally exterminated, 25 children lost of both, 130 children of one parent, civilians were killed with savagery, captives and hostages were subjected to merciless torture. Thus, fundamental human rights of our people, especially the fundamental right to life were grossly and severely violated.

This massacre, committed by Armenian invaders, who are not yet subjected to any sanction, is an act of genocide due to its unimaginable cruelty and inhuman punishment methods. Under the international law, genocide is defined as a crime against peace and mankind and is considered to be the gravest international crime. The UN General Assembly Resolution 96 (I) of 11 December 1946 states that genocide, violating the right of people to life, damages human dignity, and deprives the mankind of the material and spiritual values created by human beings. Such acts are completely contrary to the purpose and duties of the United Nations and to universal values.

The legal definition of the crime of genocide was determined in the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide adopted by the Resolution 260(III) of the UN General Assembly of 9 December 1948. The State Parties to this Convention confirmed that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or war, is a crime under international law which they undertake to prevent and punish.

Thus, commitment of criminal acts, planned in advance and aimed at mass annihilation of people on the ground of their national background during the Khojaly genocide, confirms that such acts constitute the crime of genocide under international and domestic laws. Such brutality and vandalism shall be recognized as a grave crime against humanity. During the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan all elements of the crime of genocide stated in the abovementioned Convention were applied.

The occupied territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding seven rayons are integral part of the Azerbaijani territory. This is evidenced by the UN Security Council Resolutions 822, 853, 874, 884 from 1993, UNGA Resolution titled “Situation on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan” dated on March 14, 2008, Resolution 1416 from 2005 and Recommendation 1669 from 2009 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) confirming the occupation of Azerbaijani territories by the Armenian military forces, and governing of Nagorno-Karabakh by separatists prove the abovementioned facts once again.

The Resolution of the European Parliament on the Nagorno-Karabakh, dated 23 October 2013 proves the support by the international community the just position of our country and confirms the fact of occupation. For the first time, this document denotes the importance of settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict according to the UN Security Council resolutions and immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from the occupied territories. Regretfully, no action was taken concerned, so, this conflict has not yet been settled due to unconstructive position of Armenia that does not fulfill the international resolutions.

The National Leader Heydar Aliyev unveiled the essence of the Khojaly massacre, and in February 1994 the Milli Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan gave legal and political assessment to this tragedy. President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev underlined resolutely the necessity of this conflict resolution in the frame of integrity of Azerbaijani territories as well as emphasizes the necessity of withdrawal of occupant forces from the Azerbaijani territories.

West Virginia State’s House of Representatives (USA) passed a resolution on the Khojaly tragedy. This Resolution commemorates that Khojaly tragedy is a part of the military aggression carried out by Armenian military troops in Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan since 1988. Earlier, legislative bodies of other States

of the US such as California, Massachusetts, Texas, New-Jersey, Maine, New Mexico, Arkansas, Georgia, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Florida and Mississippi had also passed the related resolutions and demanded subjecting of perpetrators of Khojaly massacre to the criminal responsibility.

Already, the Parliaments of Canada, Mexico, Columbia, Peru, the Republic of Pakistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania, the Czech Republic and Jordan also recognized the Khojaly genocide.

The aim of the “Justice for Khojaly” campaign organized by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Youth Forum carried out in over 40 countries of the world is also to aware m the international community about this bloody event.

It makes indignant and regretful that it has not yet given legal assessment to this crime at the international level and effective measures against terror acts are not undertaken. The international organizations shall strengthen the efforts towards solution of this conflict and recognize this crime as an act of genocide, shall impose sanctions on perpetrators of this crime in compliance with the norms and principles of international law without double standards.

We do once again declare that Khojaly a tragedy is an act of genocide according to the international legal norms. Armenia shall fulfill international provisions of documents on this conflict, territorial integrity of Azerbaijan must be restored, the Azerbaijani captives and hostages shall be liberated, violated rights of refugees and IDPs shall be restored and they must be returned to their homes.”

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1195887>**

**Khojaly victims remembered at Turkish mosque in Budapest  
(February 22, 2014)**

Prayers have been said for victims of the Khojaly genocide as Muslims gathered at Turkish Hans mosque in the Hungarian capital of Budapest.

In a sermon, the mosque's mufti provided an insight into the Armenians' aggression against Azerbaijan, particularly their brutality against Azerbaijani civilians in Garadagli, Baghanis-Ayrum and Khojaly.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1196066>**

**Moldova's Ombudsman: Perpetrators of Khojaly tragedy must be brought to justice  
(February 23, 2014)**

Moldovan Ombudsman Aurelia Grigoriu has said that those who had committed the Khojaly genocide had to face the full force of the law.

“We are on the eve of the 22nd anniversary of the horrible Khojaly genocide committed by the Armenian armed forces against the Azerbaijani people. I share the grief of the Azerbaijani people, and my point of view is that the international community must make a proper political and legal judgment on the Khojaly tragedy,” Ms. Grigoriu told journalists.

She said Moldova supported Azerbaijan`s efforts towards increasing the international community`s awareness of the Khojaly genocide.

The Moldovan Ombudsman said it was high time that the international community had brought the perpetrators of the genocide against Azerbaijani civilians to justice.

<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1196133>

**Azerbaijani, Turkish diasporas stage Khojaly commemoration rally outside Finnish Parliament  
(February 23, 2014)**

Azerbaijani and Turkish diasporas in Finland have stage a rally in front of the country`s parliament in Helsinki to commemorate victims of the Khojaly genocide, a massacre that saw brutal murder of hundreds of Azerbaijani civilians in the town of Khojaly by the Armenians 22 years ago.

Held as part of the Justice for Khojaly campaign, the rally was organized by the Finland-Azerbaijan Friendship Society, and involved members of Azerbaijani and Turkish diaspora organizations, Azerbaijani students and members of Helsinki`s general public.

The rally participants held “Justice for Khojaly” banners as well as Azerbaijani and Turkish flags.

Chairperson of the Finland-Azerbaijan Friendship Society Tarana Nazarova made a speech to call the Khojaly genocide “the most brutal crime against humanity committed by the Armenians”.

She urged the international community to condemn “this terror act”.

The rally protesters observed a minute`s silence for the victims of the Khojaly genocide.

Other speakers at the rally included chairman of “EU-AZ” Culture Association, artist Chingiz Abbasov, members of the Youth Organization under the Finland-Azerbaijan Friendship Society Esmira Rzayeva and Ulkar Aghayeva.

Chairman of the Turkish diaspora organization Engir Uludamar said: “The Turks have been subjected to many terror acts throughout history. The last one was committed in Khojaly 22 years ago. Unfortunately, the international community has not yet made a proper judgment on this crime.”

The rally participants signed a Khojaly petition, which was sent to Finland`s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and parliament.

Meanwhile, prayers were said for the victims of the Khojaly genocide as Muslims gathered at a Tatar mosque in Helsinki.

<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1196129>

**European Azerbaijanis Congress urges European Parliament  
to recognize Khojaly genocide as war crime  
(23 February 2014)**

The European Azerbaijanis Congress has sent an appeal to chairman of the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs Elmar Brok and member of Committee on Human Rights Elisabeth Jeggle urging them to recognize as a war crime the genocide of Azerbaijani civilians committed in the town of Khojaly by the Armenians 22 years ago.

In the appeal, sent to 300 members of the European Parliament, the Congress calls on the European Parliamentarians to voice their position on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in compliance with international legal norms.

The Congress calls on the European Parliament members to ensure investigation of the Khojaly genocide by an international expert commission. It also urges the heads of state of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairing countries to make efforts towards finding a solution to the conflict and ensuring peace.

In the document, the European Azerbaijanis Congress also expresses hope that the European Parliament will take the appeal into consideration and contribute to resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh problem.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1196143>**

**Azerbaijan`s embassy in Kuwait launches series of Khojaly commemoration events  
(February 24, 2014)**

The Embassy of Azerbaijan in Kuwait has conducted a series of events on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

One of such type of events was held at the Embassy with attendance of Azerbaijanis living, working and studying in Kuwait as well as representatives of the general public.

Ambassador Tural Rzayev and counselor of the Embassy Khalilov spoke about the massacre committed by Armenians on February 26 in Khojaly with the help of the Soviet army`s 366th regiment. They let the participants know about atrocities perpetuated by Armenian barbarians.

The participants later saw a documentary on the Khojaly massacre and a photo stand set up by the Embassy.

The exhibition “Khojaly by the eyes of children” was organized by the Azerbaijani and Turkish embassies in Kuwait at the Turkish secondary school.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Turkey`s Ambassador Murat Taner, school principal Muzaffer Cheven said they share the Azerbaijani people`s sorrow.

Ambassador of Azerbaijan Tural Rzayev provided an insight into atrocities committed in Khojaly.

The exhibition will run until March 2.

In addition, Ambassador Rzayev`s article on the Khojaly Genocide was published in the Al-Rai newspaper.

The article says the Khojaly massacre claimed the lives of 613 people including 83 children, 106 women, 70 elderly. It underlined it is the crime not against Azerbaijan but against the whole humanity.

The author claims the Government of Azerbaijan has done much work to educate the world community about the Khojaly massacre. He highlighted the contribution of the Justice for Khojaly awareness-raising campaign initiated by Vice-President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, general coordinator of the Islamic Conference Youth Forum Intercultural Dialogue Leyla Aliyeva.

The article says the world community condemns Armenia`s aggression against the people of Azerbaijan. The Islamic Cooperation Organization adopted a number of decisions and resolutions demanding withdrawal of the Armenian troops from the occupied lands of Azerbaijan.

The text of the statement of the Azerbaijani commissioner for human rights on the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly genocide was sent to the Kuwaiti parliament, Foreign Ministry, embassies accredited in Kuwait, international organizations. In addition, the statement of chairman of the Clerical Office of the Caucasus Muslims Allahshukur Pashazade translated into Arabic was sent to the Kuwaiti Ministry of Awqaf & Islamic Affairs and charity organizations.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1196942>**

**Japan remembers Khojaly genocide victims  
(February 25, 2014)**

The Embassy of Azerbaijan in Japan has conducted a series of events on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

The photo exhibition was organized at the Embassy with the support of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. The exhibition showcases material on the Khojaly massacre prepared and sent to the Embassy by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. The material includes IRS-ISAN magazine, brochures and books.

Those visiting the Embassy are informed about the genocide.

In addition, the Embassy sends publications and information to the Japanese parliament, government agencies, diplomatic missions in Japan as well as higher educational institutions and media.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1196987>**

**Turkish embassy in Azerbaijan commemorates 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Khojaly genocide  
(February 25, 2014)**

The Turkish Embassy in Azerbaijan has today organized an event commemorating the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

Addressing the event, Ambassador of Turkey Ismail Alper Coskun highlighted the history of the tragedy.

Speakers of the event said the Khojaly genocide was the crime against the humanity, stressing the importance of ensuring worldwide recognition.

The event participants watched a video featuring Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan`s comments on the Khojaly tragedy.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1197096>**

**Dnepropetrovsk commemorates Khojaly genocide victims  
(February 25, 2014)**

A remembrance ceremony to mark the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy has been held in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine.

The event was organized by the Ukrainian Azerbaijanis Youth Union (UAYU), the Azerbaijani Students and Alumni International Forum and Dnepropetrovsk regional branch of the United Congress of Ukrainian Azerbaijanis.

Attending the event Chairman of the Dnepropetrovsk branch of the Ukrainian Azerbaijanis Youth Union Elza Bakirova briefed the event participants on the Khojaly massacre. She said that Armenians will answer for the acts committed in Khojaly.

Azerbaijani legislator of the province of Dnepropetrovsk Fakhraddin Mukhtarov, Chairman of the Dnepropetrovsk regional branch of the Ukrainian Azerbaijanis Congress Gudrat Hajiyev, Vice-Chairmen of Congress Zohrab Najafov, Najaf Ahmadov, head of Ukrainian Azerbaijani Youth Union Anar Tahirov and others spoke about the Khojaly tragedy, Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan. They noted that Azerbaijan has grown into a regional leader in terms of its economic and military power.

They all expressed confidence that under the leadership of President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev the occupied territories would be freed soon.

The participants watched the "Karabakh - in whirlpool of history" film co-produced by the Azerbaijani and Ukrainian Televisions.

After the film demonstration, Deputy Chairman of Dnepropetrovsk Regional Administration's Youth Department Alexander Zolotukhin and others called Khojaly events "a crime against humanity" committed by Armenians.

<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1197111>

**Khojaly victims remembered in Qatar  
(February 25, 2014)**

An event commemorating the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly genocide has been held in Doha, Qatar. The event brought together representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited in Qatar, as well as citizens of foreign countries and journalist.

The event started with a one-minute-silence in memory of the Khojaly victims.

Azerbaijan`s Ambassador to Qatar Tofiq Abdullayev briefed the event participants on the history of the tragedy, which claimed the lives of 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 elders.

A documentary on the Khojaly massacre was demonstrated at the event.

Ambassador Abdullayev held a press conference on the anniversary of the genocide.

<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1196965>

**Khojaly victims honoured in Istanbul  
(February 25, 2014)**

A commemorative ceremony on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy has been held in Istanbul, Turkey.

The event organized by the Istanbul Turkey-Azerbaijan Association was attended by Azerbaijani MPs Agil Abbas, Elman Mammadov, members of the Turkish Grand National Assembly Atilla Kaya, Ali Ozgunduz, professor of Maltepe Univeristy Turkan Saylan, Secretary-General of Anatolia Intellectuals Hearth Ibrahim Oztekin and witnesses of the genocide.

Attending the event Azerbaijan`s Consul General in Istanbul Hasan Zeynalov said that Khojaly tragedy has been recognized as a genocide in many countries.

He also emphasized the role of the "Justice for Khojaly" international campaign in recognizing the massacre as the genocide. He underlined the role of the Justice for Khojaly campaign in educating the world community about the massacre.

Head of the Istanbul Turkey-Azerbaijan Association Safar Garakoyunlu spoke of the Khojaly tragedy, and noted that Azerbaijani lands will be freed soon, and refugees and internally displaced persons would return to their native lands.

A photo exhibition on the tragedy was also held as part of the event.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1197042>**

**Khojaly victims commemorated in Hague  
(February 25, 2014)**

The memory of the Khojaly tragedy victims was revered in Hague, Netherlands.

The rally staged by the Azerbaijani-Turkish Cultural Center was attended by head of the Hague Interreligious Dialogue Platform Bart en Broek, prominent Dutch journalist Jack Kroes, representatives of Azerbaijani and Turkey embassies, writer Orhan Aras, and politicians and local residents.

Then, 83 white balloons with the name of killed babies were released.

Attending the event, President of the Dutch Azerbaijan-Turkey Cultural Association Ilhan Ashkin noted "Bosnia and Herzegovina, Pakistan, Hungary, and other countries recognized the Khojaly massacre as genocide. We are seeking to have this decision made in the Netherlands too. We are trying to initiate discussions on this event in the Dutch Parliament. We plan to hold a signature gathering campaign".

More than 500 people took part in the rally.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1197165>**

**OIC Secretary General commemorates Khojaly massacre victims  
(February 26, 2014)**

On the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the massacre in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly, the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Iyad Ameen Madani, has paid tribute to all those innocent people who lost their lives during that atrocity in 1992.

The Secretary General reiterated that what made the Khojaly massacre possible was the illegal occupation of Azerbaijan territory by Armenia. He referred to the resolution adopted by the 40th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, in 2013, which considered the actions perpetrated against civilian Azerbaijani population in the occupied Azerbaijani territories as crimes against humanity.

The Secretary General further reiterated the full support of the OIC to the initiatives and efforts of the Republic of Azerbaijan to put an end to the occupation of its territories and to restore its territorial integrity.

He also expressed his deep condolences to the people of Azerbaijan who lost their loved ones in the Khojaly massacre.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1197423>**

**Premier Erdogan: Khojaly victims are the children of both Azerbaijan and Turkey  
(February 26, 2014)**

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said those who were killed in Khojaly are the children of both Azerbaijan and Turkey.

He commented on the anniversary of Khojaly tragedy at a meeting of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP).

Erdogan drew the parliamentarians` attention to the official numbers on those, who were injured and went missing.

“We share the grief of our Azerbaijani brothers and pay tribute to the victims.”

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1197464>**

**Article on Khojaly massacre published in Mexican newspaper  
(February 26, 2014)**

Mexican Excelsior newspaper has published an article by President of the Azerbaijan Latin America Association Natig Atakishiyev.

Headlined Occupation and Genocide, the article narrates on the genocide committed in Khojaly on February 26, 1992 and Armenia`s aggressive policy against Azerbaijan.

The author provided facts to prove that the atrocity committed against civilians is part of the ethnic purge policy pursued by Armenia in Nagorno-Karabakh and other occupied lands of Azerbaijan.

Atakishiyev called for punishment of the committers of the genocide so that such crimes could never happen again.

The article says the international community condemned the occupation of the Azerbaijani lands. The article mentioned the UN Security Council`s four resolutions on the dispute and recognition of the Khojaly massacre as a genocide by some countries and several US states.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1197475>**

**Khojaly genocide victims remembered in Klaipeda  
(February 26, 2014)**

A ceremony to mark the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Khojaly genocide was organized in Klaipeda, Lithuania, by the Azeris Society.

The ceremony was attended by local journalists, chairman of the Klaipeda Jewish Society Felex Puzimski, Head of the Klaipeda Muslim Organization Shamil Gumerov, leaders of the Tatar, Ukrainian and Belarus communities Ilfir Gibadullin, Leonid Tregub and Nikolay Logvin respectively.

The participants saw a video on the Khojaly tragedy and viewed an exhibition featuring books and photographs depicting horrible scenes of the massacre.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1197489>**

**Khojaly genocide victims commemorated in Finland  
(February 26, 2014)**

The Finnish Azerbaijanis Association (FAA) has held an exhibition featuring the Khojaly Genocide at the Helsinki-Based Caisa cultural center.

The exhibition showcased books, brochures on the Khojaly genocide published by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation as well as photographs depicting scenes of the massacre.

A documentary on the massacre was demonstrated at the event.

The event participants adopted an appeal to the European Parliament to recognize the Khojaly massacre as a genocide. The appeal was also sent to the Finnish parliament and the embassies accredited in the country.

Speaking at the opening of the exhibition, Chairperson of the Finnish Azerbaijani Women Society Arzu Ogtay said roots of the tragedy go back to much earlier past than just 22 years ago.

Turkey`s ambassador to Finland Adnan Basaga said the Khojaly massacre is on par with other outrages against humanity such as Khatyn, Lidica, Oradour genocides.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1197555>**

**World Azerbaijanis commemorate 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Khojaly genocide  
(February 26, 2014)**

Azerbaijani Consulate General in Istanbul has organized an event commemorating the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

Azerbaijan's Consul General in Istanbul Hasan Zeynalov briefed the event participants on the history of the tragedy.

Coordinator of the "Justice for Khojaly" campaign for Turkey Elmeddin Mehdiyev provided information about the campaign initiated by Vice-President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva.

A documentary on the Khojaly tragedy was demonstrated at the event.

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A photo exhibition marking the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly genocide has opened in Time Gallery, Vienna, Austria.

The exhibition brought together public figures, as well as employees of the Azerbaijani Embassy and members of the Azerbaijani community in Austria.

The event started with a one-minute-silence in memory of the Khojaly victims.

Head of "Time" Gallery Gunther Vahtl provided an insight into the history of the Khojaly genocide.

The event featured the demonstration of a documentary and a video on the consequences of the Armenian military aggression against Azerbaijan.

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A round table titled "Ethnic cleansing in the Nagorno-Karabakh and the Khojaly genocide" has been held in Istanbul, Turkey.

The event was held at the initiative of the Caspian Strategy Institute (HASEN).

Head of Caspian Strategy Institute, Mesut Hakki Casim briefed the event participants on the history of the tragedy, which claimed the lives of 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 elders.

He said the Khojaly genocide was the continuation of the Armenian ethnic cleansing policy against the Azerbaijanis.

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An international conference commemorating the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly genocide has been arranged in Bielefeld, Germany.

The event started with a one-minute-silence in memory of the Khojaly victims.

Head of the German-Azerbaijan Cultural Society in North Rhine-Westphalia province Tarana Taghiyeva briefed the event participants on the history of the Khojaly genocide.

Attending the event, member of Azerbaijani Parliament Musa Gasimli provided information about the massacre, which claimed the lives of 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 elders.

The MP added a total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the Khojaly genocide.

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A rally marking the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly genocide has been held in Milan, Italy.

The rally was arranged by the Azerbaijani-Italian Youth Association within the international "Justice for Khojaly" campaign.

Supported by the Azerbaijani Embassy in Italy, the event aims to deliver the realities about the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh and the Khojaly genocide to the Italian society.

A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide committed by the Armenian military forces in the town of Khojaly on February 26, 1992.

Eight families were completely annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.

The rally participants distributed booklets reflecting the realities of the Khojaly massacre to the city residents.

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A seminar marking the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly genocide has been held at the Preston University of Pakistan.

The event brought together public and political figures of Pakistan, as well as rectors and professors of leading universities of the country, ambassadors of foreign countries and journalists.

The event saw speeches by rector of Preston University Abdul Basit, Former Chairman of the Pakistani Senate's Committee on Foreign Affairs Salim Seyfulla Khan, Former Internal Affairs Minister Wasim Sajjad, professor of John Hopkins University Aftab Kazi, and President of Azerbaijan Pakistan Youth Forum Asif Noor.

The speakers provided an insight into the history of the Khojaly genocide.

Azerbaijani Ambassador to Pakistan Dashgin Shikarov also highlighted the Khojaly massacre, as well as Armenian aggression against the Azerbaijanis.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1197643>**

**Azerbaijani embassy in Croatia commemorates Khojaly genocide victims  
(February 26, 2014)**

The Azerbaijani Embassy in Croatia has organized a commemorative event on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

The event started with a one-minute-silence in memory of the Khojaly victims.

Addressing the event, Azerbaijani Ambassador to the country Kamil Khasiyev provided an insight into the history of the Khojaly genocide.

Books on the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the Khojaly tragedy published by the Embassy in the Croatian language were distributed to local residents, a library, and universities.

A press release on the genocide in English and Croatian languages was spread at the commemorative event.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1197721>**

**Turkish Parliament speaker issues statement on Khojaly genocide  
(February 26, 2014)**

Chairman of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Cemil Cicek has issued a statement on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

He called the Khojaly genocide “a big stain in the history of humanity”, stressing that “the culprits of the massacre must be brought to international justice”.

The Speaker noted that one of the biggest massacres of the 20th century was committed by Armenia in the occupied Nagorno Karabakh region: “Armenia, which keeps 20% of the territory of Azerbaijan under occupation, forced hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijani Turks away from their homelands lands. Those who are responsible for Khojaly genocide should be brought to justice.”

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1197728>**

**Rally on Khojaly genocide held in Rome  
(February 26, 2014)**

A rally marking the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly genocide has been held in Rome, Italy.

Supported by the Azerbaijani Embassy in Italy, the event was organized by the Azerbaijani-Italian Youth Association as part of “Justice for Khojaly” international awareness campaign.

The goal of the rally was to deliver the realities about the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh and the Khojaly genocide to the Italian society.

Local residents and tourists were informed about the genocide, which claimed the lives of 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 elders.

The rally participants distributed Italian language booklets and brochures reflecting the realities of the Khojaly massacre among the city residents.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1197794>**

**US congressmen urge world leaders to help end occupation of Azerbaijani lands  
(February 27, 2014)**

US congressmen Tim Ryan and Gene Green have made a statement on the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy.

Green noted that Khojaly was one of the three biggest towns in the Azerbaijani region of Nagorno-Karabakh. He said the massacre was covered by reputable international media companies. He underlined that Azerbaijan was an important partner and friend of the United States. Green called on the world leaders to help broker a peaceful agreement that could put an end to occupation of the Azerbaijani lands.

Ryan remembered the Khojaly tragedy victims. He underlined that fair resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict would be important in terms of establishing long-term peace in the region.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1197933>**

**Poignant remembrance of 613 Khojaly victims by Bosphorus  
(February 27, 2014)**

The victims of the Khojaly massacre in Azerbaijan have been remembered with a moving tribute in Ortakoy Square, Istanbul, organised by the Turkish office of The European Azerbaijan Society (TEAS). This commemorated the loss of the lives of 613 civilians who died that fateful night of 25–26 February 1992. This was the worst single incident of the Armenia–Azerbaijan conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

The commemoration evening, attended by hundreds of people, culminated in a simple, yet poignant act, with 613 special light balloons being simultaneously released by Istanbul residents into the night sky over the Bosphorus – one for every man, woman and child killed in the tragedy.

During the event, Rena Rzaeva, Istanbul Representative, TEAS said: “Khojaly is a painful memory in Azerbaijan’s history. Although we cannot travel back in time and undo the injustice that was caused, it is our duty to remember this. It was not just Azerbaijani land that was lost during that tragic night – it was homes, childhood memories and people’s hopes. Altogether 63 children, 106 women and 444 men lost their lives. These are not just numbers – these are people. They are mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, and dearly loved ones. All those who died left behind family members and close friends who still carry these emotional scars. For them and the Azerbaijani nation, the nightmare of Khojaly will stay in their hearts and minds forever.”

Defne Sarisoy, Turkish TV personality and presenter, added: “Khojaly, the second largest city in Nagorno-Karabakh, witnessed the most brutal massacre in Azerbaijani history. This Khojaly commemoration event is not just for Azerbaijan, it is for the whole Turkish community, who share this heartbreak. May I thank TEAS for organising this Khojaly commemoration evening.”

Khojaly survivor Khazangul Amirova, who lost both her parents and sister, told her personal story in a very moving testimony. Reducing many audience members to tears, she recalled: “Armenians killed my mother that night. When they surrounded us, they took us as captives and brought us to Askaran. They continued to fire on us as we walked, despite there being many children and women amongst our crowd. One of the bullets hit my five-year-old sister, whom I held in my arms as she fell. I wanted to raise her, but she was dead. The Armenians tied down my father. They brought me to him and I saw as they poured kerosene on him and burned him alive before my very eyes. Even though it is with great pain I speak tonight, it is important that I share this with you.”

The event also comprised live traditional music from the Natig Rhythm Group who prepared a special unique Khojaly musical performance. There was also a digital exhibition of photos taken during and immediately after the Khojaly Massacre and a special video cinema screened footage of Khojaly and personal testimonies from Khojaly survivors.

It was most fitting that Ortakoy Square played host to the event, as this has historically been amongst the most cosmopolitan areas of Istanbul, with Islamic, Jewish, Orthodox and other Christian places of worship coexisting in a spirit of harmony.

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remains unresolved, with around 18 per cent of Azerbaijani territory remaining occupied by Armenia, despite four UN Security Council resolutions demanding the withdrawal of Armenian armed forces from the occupied territories. This has led 875,000 people to remain as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees in camps across Azerbaijan for 20 years.

<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1197931>

**Azerbaijani ambassador talks about Khojaly genocide to Belgian radio  
(February 27, 2014)**

Azerbaijan`s Ambassador to Belgium with concurrent accreditation to Luxembourg and head of the country`s permanent representation to the European Union, Fuad Isgandarov, has highlighted the consequences of the Khojaly genocide in an interview to Belgian Gold FM Radio.

The Ambassador said every year on February 26 Azerbaijani diaspora organized a series of events aimed at commemorating the genocide of 1992 when the Armenians massacred hundreds of Azerbaijani civilians in the town of Khojaly.

He called the Khojaly tragedy “the bloodiest event” in Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Isgandarov said many countries including Pakistan, Mexico, Columbia, Czech Republic, Honduras and several US states adopted resolutions about the Khojaly genocide.

The Ambassador also answered questions related to Azerbaijan-Belgium and Azerbaijan-EU relations, as well as regional energy projects.

**Azerbaijan`s permanent representative to UN sends letter  
to Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon over Khojaly massacre  
(February 27, 2014)**

Head of Azerbaijan`s permanent mission to the UN Agshin Mehdiyev has sent a letter to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with an aim to raise the world community`s awareness about the Khojaly genocide truths. The letter told of the massacre committed in the town of Khojaly in 1992.

The letter says the crime was perpetuated by Armenians and the committers have remained unpunished so far.

At the same time, the press-release on the Khojaly tragedy was sent to the UN members.

The New York-based Azerbaijan New York Association, America-Azerbaijan Women`s Association, Turkey-America Association and Federation of Turkish American Associations staged a rally together on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly genocide on February 26.

Representatives of these organizations gathered in front of the Armenia`s mission to the UN, showed placards reflecting Armenia as an aggressor to the foreigners and spoke about those tragic events.

Then, representatives of those organizations continued their protest rally in front of the UN headquarters.

The rally also drew Azerbaijani and Turkish students studying in New York.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1198108>**

**Azerbaijanis in Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina commemorate Khojaly genocide victims  
(February 27, 2014)**

Azerbaijani Embassy in Serbia has organized a commemorative event marking the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

The event brought together representatives of the Azerbaijan Cultural Centre in Belgrade, representatives of the Serbia-Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce, Azerbaijanis studying in Belgrade, representatives of the Muslim community and journalists.

Azerbaijani Ambassador Eldar Hasanov briefed the event participants on the history of the tragedy, which claimed the lives of 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 elders. The event participants watched a Heydar Aliyev Foundation-made film on the Khojaly genocide.

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Azerbaijan`s diplomatic mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina has organized an event to commemorate the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

Prior to the event, the event participants visited a memorial to victims of Khojaly and Srebrenica genocides in the Friendship Park.

The event was attended by members of the Bosnia and Herzegovina-Azerbaijan Friendship Society, and Azerbaijanis living in the country.

The event started with a one-minute-silence in memory of the Khojaly victims.

A statement by the Azerbaijani Commissioner for Human Rights on the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly genocide was read out at the commemorative event.

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An event marking the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly genocide has been arranged by Azerbaijan`s diplomatic mission in Montenegro.

The event brought together representatives of diplomatic corps accredited in Montenegro, employees of Turkish Airlines and members of Azerbaijani and Turkish communities.

**Books on Khojaly genocide and Nagorno-Karabakh presented to Liverpool University library  
(February 28, 2014)**

On the eve of the Khojaly genocide the Liverpool Azerbaijani Society with the support of the Azerbaijani embassy to the United Kingdom has presented books on the Khojaly genocide and Nagorno-Karabakh to the Sydney Jones Library of Great Britain.

The full list of the presented books is available at

<http://library.liv.ac.uk/search/?searchtype=t&SORT=D&searcharg=Khojaly&searchscope=8>.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1198378>**

**California University learns truth about Khojaly genocide. Armenian lobby fails to obstruct the event  
(February 28, 2014)**

The University of California, Irvine (UCI), which is one of the most prestigious universities in California, hosted an event dedicated to Azerbaijan. The event was held by the Council on International Affairs at UCI, and attended by students and professors of the university. At the invitation of the Council, Consul General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles Nasimi Aghayev addressed the audience. Highlighting the illegal military occupation of Azerbaijan's territories, as well as the ethnic cleansing and war crimes carried out by Armenia against Azerbaijani civilian population on the occupied territories, the Consul General informed the attendees about the Khojaly massacre of 1992, which resulted in the brutal killing of hundreds of civilian Azerbaijanis, including many children, women, and elderly. He noted that as much as Armenia tries to deny the responsibility for this massacre, the facts speak for themselves and cannot be changed. In this regard, the Consul General mentioned the admission of culpability for this mass killing expressed by Armenia's current president Serzh Sargsyan in an interview given in 2000. Moreover, the Consul General drew the attention to the book written by Markar Melkonian, brother of the ASALA terrorist Monte Melkonian, who was directly involved in the Khojaly massacre. He said that "this book vividly illustrates how brutally the Armenian forces carried out this massacre." In this regard, Aghayev said that after all these confessions and facts, including an assessment by Human Rights Watch, it is ridiculous to deny the responsibility for the Khojaly massacre. The Consul General also mentioned that it is also unfathomable that "this terrorist Monte Melkonian was declared National Hero of Armenia and his statue was erected in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan." During the presentation, the Consul General also spoke about Azerbaijan's history, culture, its development as an independent nation, its oil strategy, relations with U.S., Europe and neighboring countries. He also highlighted the long-standing traditions of ethnic and religious tolerance in Azerbaijan and said in this regard that the Government of Azerbaijan is paying a special attention to strengthening these traditions.

The presentation was followed by a lively Q&A session, during which Consul General Aghayev responded to various questions from American students as well as from Armenians. Brochures, booklets, articles and journals regarding the military occupation of Azerbaijan's territories by Armenia as well as the Khojaly Genocide, were distributed at the event. It should be mentioned that a number of representatives of radical Armenian organizations tried to obstruct the event, in the end, by making much noise, but failed to achieve their goal.

<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1198693>

**Romanian Nine O'clock newspaper: Khojaly – A human tragedy against Azerbaijan  
(February 28, 2014)**

Romanian-based English-language newspaper Nine O'Clock has published an article headlined "Khojaly – a human tragedy against Azerbaijan".

Written by chairman of Romania – Azerbaijan Friendship Association Dumitru Balan, the article reads: "Human history has witnessed dreadful crimes against innocent civilians after 1900's. While massive and deliberate killing of Jews by Nazi German with the aim to exterminate them in World War II and mass murder of civilians of Bosnian Muslims in Srebrenica in 1995 which was described as worst crime on European soil since the Second World War has been severely condemned by international community as a genocide, the world has turned blind eye to the carnage of Armenian armed forces in Khojali, the Azerbaijan town which is under occupation of Armenia.

22 years ago in February 26, 1992 the Armenian armed forces with the help of the 366th motorized infantry brigade of the Russian Interior Ministry occupied Khojali. Khojali is a small town in the Nagorno-Karabakh which is under occupation of Armenia with 7 surrounding regions for almost 20 years together. As a result of brutal annihilation of hundreds of innocent inhabitants of the town 613 innocent Azerbaijanis, including 106 women and 83 children were viciously massacred by Armenian forces. 25 children were orphaned and 130 lost one parent. 8 families were totally exterminated while 476 civilians were permanently disabled. 1275 people were taken hostages.

Brutality of this mass killing accompanied by mutilation of bodies put it in one line with the most horrifying tragedies of the XX century. However, despite the fact that human tragedy in Khojali was well documented by international media and by respected international human rights organizations such as Human Rights Watch, world decision-makers have fallen short from properly recognizing this horrific crime. Quite the reverse, being misled by wily Armenian diaspora's deceptive attempts some countries especially in Europe recognize the clashes in Ottoman Turkey as so-called "genocide", through which politicians and leaders in respective countries seek dividends while deliberately turning blind eye to realities and truth that can be unveiled by historians. Armenians who want to push the so-called "genocide" allegations to political platforms of different countries are yet far from the courage to let the historical truths be discussed. Today, the Armenian state mostly supported by its diaspora cannot camouflage the carnage committed against innocent civilians in Khojali since the chief-perpetrators have constantly, "proudly", blatantly and publicly confessed their atrocities on different occasions.

The chief-perpetrator of Khojali genocide currently enjoying shelter provided by Armenian government though under search of INTERPOL, Zori Balayan narrates the vandalism of his soldiers in his book "Revival of our Spirit" issued in 1996 page 260-262: "While we entered the house which we seized (in Khojali-ed.), our soldiers have nailed the Turkish (Armenians regard Azerbaijanis and Turkish the same as they originate from common ethnic root – ed.) child on to the window. The soldiers cut off the boobs of the child's mother and plunged them on his mouth to soothe him a bit. Then he ripped the skin from his head, bosom and stomach. I looked at my watch and after seven minutes the Turkish child fainted and died. My spirit was feeling pride as it revenged 1% of my people. Then Khachatur chopped the corpse into pieces and did the same for another 3 Turkish children. As an Armenian patriot I fulfilled my duty". While pronouncing the words of Zori Balayan one cannot find an explanation to the question how the spirit can revive itself by turning to beast.

The descriptions of bloody acts of Armenian soldiers do not confine to Zori Balayan's confessions. The story of Daud Kheyriyan who was also involved in those brutalities is not less modest at all. In his book "For the sake of Cross..." at pages 24, 62 and 63 published by "Ash-Sharg" (East) agency in Beirut he states the followings: "Sometimes we happened to march on dead bodies. In order to cross a swamp near Dashbulag (the name of the occupied territory in Azerbaijan), we have paved a road composed of dead bodies. I refused to march on dead bodies. Then colonel Oganyan ordered me not to scare. It is one of military laws. I have pressed my one foot onto the breast of a wounded girl aged 9 or 10 years and marched... My legs, my photo camera were in blood...". Then he proceeds that "... the Armenian group "Gaflan" (dealing with burning of dead bodies) have collected 100 dead bodies of Turks (Azerbaijani) and burned them in a place located one kilometer from Khojaly to the West on March 2... I saw girl aged 10 and wounded in hands and in head lying in last truck. Her face was already of a blue color. But she was still alive despite of hunger, coldness and wounds. She had a little breath. I cannot forget her eyes striving with death... Suddenly a soldier called Tigranyan took that body and thrown it on other dead bodies... Then they have burned dead bodies. It seemed to me that someone

was crying in fire between dead bodies... After all I could not go further. But I wanted to see Shusha (occupied city of Azerbaijan)... I returned. And they continued their battles for the sake of Cross....”

Reader of the story cannot miss the rationale behind tortures and violence of Armenian soldiers as asserted by Daud Kheyriyan. For centuries all heavenly religions explicitly forbade murdering innocent people. Jesus Christ has preached his followers tolerance and even going far prevented any sort of hostility and revenge mentioning that “...But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. Islam’s preaching does not lag behind at all from what Christianity implies. Murdering an innocent person is taken equivalent to killing all mankind according to Islam.

A British journalist, writer and expert on Caucasus Thomas de Waal in his book “Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan through peace and war” (New York University Press, 2003, pp. 169-172) recalls the confessions of current president of Armenia, Serzh Sargsian about Khojali stating that “Before Khojali, the Azerbaijanis thought that they were joking with us, they thought that the Armenians were people who could not raise their hand against the civilian population. We were able to break that [stereotype].”

Justice must prevail. International community must condemn atrocities against civilian Azerbaijanis as firm and severely as it should. Because the dead cannot cry out for justice; it is a duty of the living to do so for them.”

<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1198708>

**Protest rally on Khojaly genocide held in front of European Parliament  
(February 28, 2014)**

A protest rally marking the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Khojaly genocide has been held in front of the European Parliament in Brussels.

More than 200 Azerbaijanis attended the rally organized by Benelux Azerbaijanis Congress and supported by the State Committee for Diaspora Affairs.

Addressing the event, chairman of Benelux Azerbaijanis Congress Sahil Gasimov and deputy chairman Elsever Mammadov demanded the European Parliament to give a legal assessment to the Khojaly genocide.

The rally participants carried posters with slogans “Justice for Khojaly”. The protest rally ended outside the Armenian Embassy.

After the rally, “Xoca” film was demonstrated in one of the central hotels in Brussels.

<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1198740>

**Bulgarian newspapers highlight consequences of Khojaly tragedy  
(February 28, 2014)**

Bulgarian Standart newspaper has published an article titled “the Khojaly Genocide - Tragedy of 20th Century” by journalist Lyubomir Mikhaylov.

The article used excerpts from the interview of Azerbaijani Ambassador to Bulgaria Emil Karimov. The article notes 20 percent of Azerbaijan’s territories were occupied by Armenia. Although UN Security Council adopted 4 resolutions on the occupied territories, Armenia hasn’t yet withdrawn its armed forces from the Azerbaijani lands.

The article narrates on the Khojaly tragedy. It says in February 1992 the massacre left 613 people dead including 106 women, 70 elderly and 63 children.

24 Chasa newspaper has featured an article headlined “World Azerbaijanis Commemorate Khojaly Tragedy Victims”.

The article provided information about the massacre and activities of the “Justice for Khojaly” awareness-raising campaign initiated by Vice-President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1198749>**

**US congressman Pete Olson makes statement on Khojaly tragedy  
(March 1, 2014)**

Congressmen Pete Olson made a statement on the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy at the United States Congress. The US-based Assembly of the Friends of Azerbaijan (AFAZ) played a special role in the making of the statement.

The Congressman also said the United States should increase its efforts to facilitate resolution to the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in accordance with international law.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1198853>**

**Khojaly genocide victims remembered in Bucharest  
(March 2, 2014)**

A conference “Conflicts in the South Caucasus and their results: Khojaly is tragedy of one night” was at the Hyperion University in the Romanian capital of Bucharest.

Supported by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, the event was attended by the university’s staff and students, representatives of Bucharest Writers` Union, researchers of the Conflict Prevention and Early Warning Center, employees of Azerbaijan`s Embassy in Romania, members of the Azerbaijan-Romania Youth and Culture Association and Romania-Azerbaijan Friendship Society, Azerbaijanis living and studying in Romania, and members of the Turkish and Tatar communities.

The event was opened by dean of the University Ion Marin. He said such events were important in terms of educating the world community about the truths on the conflicts taking place around the world.

Director of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation’s Romania office Igbal Hajiyev briefed the event participants on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. He provided an insight into the causes of the genocide committed against the people of Azerbaijan, crafty policy of Armenians and their masterminds.

Hajiyev dwelled upon Khojaly genocide. He underlined that President Ilham Aliyev was successfully continuing the political course of national leader Heydar Aliyev to raise the world community`s awareness about the truths on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, particularly Khojaly tragedy. He lingered around the Justice for Khojaly awareness-raising campaign launched by Vice-President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva.

Representative of the Center for Conflict Prevention and Early Warning Lavinia Kristiana Lupu told of the causes, grave consequences of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. She said Khojaly massacre left hundreds of civilians dead, calling it “a crime against humanity”. She noted incumbent Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan was personally engaged in the Khojaly massacre.

Also speaking at the ceremony were chairperson of Bucharest Writers` Union Horia Girbea, and representative of the Azerbaijani Embassy Tehran Shukurov

The event participants watched a short film on Khojaly genocide, and received brochures and books on the massacre.

<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1199184>

**Italian news portal posts article on Khojaly genocide  
(March 3, 2014)**

Italy's "Ragusa oggi" news portal has published an article dedicated to the Khojaly massacre.

Headlined "Khojaly. A bleeding wound in the hearts of Azerbaijanis", the article described the Khojaly tragedy as a crime against humanity.

The article notes that the Khojaly genocide committed by Armenians is one of the most tragic events in the history of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

During the Khojaly genocide, 613 people whose names were known, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 old people were killed.

The article features an interview of famous journalist, author of "Black Garden" book Thomas de Waal, with the Armenian President Serj Sargsyan who said "'Before Khojali, the Azerbaijanis thought that they were joking with us, they thought that the Armenians were people who could not raise their hand against the civilian population. We were able to break that [stereotype]. And that's what happened."

The author touches on the activities of the OSCE Minsk Group whose activity to find a peaceful solution to the dispute has not bring any results yet.

It narrated on the international conference on the Khojaly genocide held on February 12 in Rome, which aimed to raise the Italian society`s awareness about the conflict.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1199590>**

**Khojaly genocide victims commemorated in Newcastle  
(March 3, 2014)**

A rally to mark the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly genocide has been organized by the Azerbaijani Society of the UK's Newcastle University as part of the "Justice for Khojaly" campaign.

Azerbaijani students demonstrated placards illustrating Armenia's aggressive policy against Azerbaijan and distributed brochures on the Khojaly massacre.

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1199599>**

**Khojaly tragedy victims honored in Chicago  
(March 4, 2014)**

A ceremony has been organized in the city of Chicago, Illinois, the USA, to mark the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy.

Held at the Loyola University, the event was attended by teachers and students of the university, representatives of Azerbaijani and Turkish diasporas, as well as acclaimed experts in international crime.

Konul Suleymanly, second secretary of Azerbaijan's Embassy, provided an insight into the consequences of the tragedy.

Graduate of the Loyola University and the organizer of the event Mehriban Mammadova made a presentation on the tragic events of 1992. She stressed the fact that the perpetrators of the Khojaly tragedy had not yet been punished. Mammadova praised the role of the Justice for Khojaly campaign launched by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in delivering the truth to the world community.

The event featured performance by American oud player Judith Montalvo, and a photo exhibition

**<http://www.azertag.com/en/node/1199715>**

**U.S. congressman makes statement on Khojaly tragedy  
(March 7, 2014)**

U.S. Congressman, Co-chairman of the House Azerbaijan Caucus, Bill Shuster has made a statement in the U.S. Congress with regard to the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy, the Azerbaijani Embassy in the U.S. told Trend on March 7.

Shuster remembered the victims of the Khojaly tragedy and stressed that this massacre was widely documented by the international media.

In his statement Shuster particularly stressed that Azerbaijan is a key strategic partner of the United States.

On February 25-26, 1992 Armenian occupation forces together with the 366th infantry regiment of Soviet troops stationed in Khankendi committed an act of genocide against the population of the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly.

Some 613 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old people. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide.

Eight families were totally exterminated, 130 children lost one parent and 25 children lost both.

Some 1,275 innocent residents were taken hostages, while the fate of 150 people remains unknown.

The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan.

Armenian armed forces have occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan since 1992, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts.

Azerbaijan and Armenia signed a ceasefire agreement in 1994. The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, Russia, France and the U.S. are currently holding peace negotiations.

Armenia has not yet implemented the U.N. Security Council's four resolutions on the liberation of the Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding regions.

<http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh/2250599.html>

**“Genocide of three generations” exhibition launches in Aalten, Netherlands  
(6 January 2015)**

A photo exhibition entitled “Genocide of three generations”, depicting the horrors of Khojali genocide, has been launched in Aalten, the Netherlands. The exhibition featured 125 photos taken and reflecting acts of genocide committed by Armenians in Khojali and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan in 1992. The organizer of the exhibition, the head of the Turkish Cultural Center Ilhan Ashkin noted that Aalten city was specially selected for this exhibition. He said that, Aalten was one of the cities most affected by the German Nazi aggression during World War II. The visitors were informed about the barbarism committed against the civil population of Khojali 23 years ago, the occupation of Azerbaijani lands by Armenian armed forces and about the Armenians’ ethnic cleansing policy. They were also informed about the Armenia’s acts of genocide carried out against Azerbaijanis in 1905 and 1918. The exhibition was visited by a large number of people and displayed photos made a deep impression on them. Earlier, the “Genocide of three generations” exhibition was displayed in the Brussels and The Hague. The exhibition is planned to be launched in other cities of the Netherlands after Aalten.

**[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Genocide\\_of\\_three\\_generations\\_exhibition\\_launches\\_in\\_Aalten\\_Netherlands-822763](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Genocide_of_three_generations_exhibition_launches_in_Aalten_Netherlands-822763)**

**Texas Parliament adopts resolution on Khojaly tragedy  
(February 17, 2015)**

Two years ago the parliament adopted a similar resolution.

Member of the House of Representatives of the US state of Texas Jin Wu extended resolution of the state in connection with the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy, USAN (the organization of the Azerbaijani Diaspora in USA) says.

Oxu.Az reports with reference to the State Committee for Work with Diaspora that according to the resolution, the massacre of civilians of Khojaly in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan has been made by Armenian armed forces with the support of the Russian military during the Karabakh war.

"This is a grim reminder of the crime, which may occur during the war, and the continuing need to promote dialogue and tolerance in order to avoid violence," the resolution says.

It is noted that two years ago the parliament of Texas adopted a similar resolution.

Events in Khojaly are among the most tragic in the history of the Armenian occupation of the Azerbaijani territory. On the night of 26 February, 1992 the Armenian armed forces with the support of heavy equipment and personnel of the 366th regiment of the former USSR, stationed in Khankendi, implemented the capture of the town of Khojaly, as a result at least 613 people were brutally killed, among them 106 women, 63 children, 70 old men; eight families were completely destroyed; 487 people became invalids, 1275 were captured, 150 missing.

**News.Az**

**The Hill publishes article about war crimes committed in Khojaly  
(February 17, 2015)**

“People who participated in the war crime of Khojaly occupy high positions in the Armenian government,” says Denis Jaffe’s article published in The Hill, APA reports.

Jaffe wrote that Armenian propaganda tried to clumsily whitewash the Nagorno Karabakh war:

“Armenia conducted the largest human rights abuses in the entire post-Soviet history, such as the war crime of Khojaly, where in one night over 600 Azerbaijanis, Kurds and Meskheti Turks were brutally massacred and the people who participated on the Armenian side are now the president and the defense minister of that country.

Azerbaijan received about \$1 billion in U.S. aid since 1992, whilst Armenia received almost \$3 billion in the same time.

To demonstrate the fever, Armenia tallied in as 2 percent more anti-Semitic than Iran. It’s a hard to take seriously Armenian apologists trying to talk about human rights and democracy in Azerbaijan, when they have such incidents take place in their own backyard. It is truly dystopian to accuse Azerbaijan, with a straight face, of "blatant disregard to international law", for shooting down an Armenian military helicopter, with three uniformed Armenian soldiers, that was illegally conducting drills and maneuvers deep inside the Azerbaijani airspace, in the Armenia-occupied Aghdam region of Azerbaijan which is not even part of the Armenia-occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. All Armenia needs to do is remove its military from Azerbaijan – and peace will immediately follow, together with improved democratic climate and stronger human rights protections for all,” said Denis Jaffe.

**News.Az**

**Khojaly victims commemorated in Dublin  
(February 18, 2015)**

The new independent documentary *Endless Corridor* was screened at The Light House Cinema – one of the most respected art cinemas in the Irish capital. The screening commemorated the victims of the Khojaly Massacre in 1992 – the worst single atrocity of the Armenian–Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh – which claimed the lives of 613 civilian victims in 1992. The death toll included 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people. The evening also saw the launch of the landmark publication *Khojaly Witness of a War Crime: Armenia in the Dock*. Speaking before the audience of over 80 politicians, councillors, VIPs and representatives from the arts and media spheres, including Professor Farrel Corcoran, Dublin City University and Former Chair of Irish State Broadcaster RTÉ; Ellen Gunning, Presenter, Mediascope; and representatives of the Turkish, Argentine and Dutch Embassies to Ireland, Leon Cook, Communications and Marketing Director, The European Azerbaijan Society (TEAS), introduced the film. He said: “TEAS is proud to organise these events within the framework of the Justice for Khojaly campaign, which is an international awareness campaign initiated by Leyla Aliyeva, Vice-President, Heydar Aliyev Foundation. The Justice for Khojaly international campaign was launched on 8 May 2008. The campaign’s rapid development is a measure of international support for the restoration of justice in the region. This support has been expressed at events in over 100 countries in Europe, America, Asia and Africa and, has come from individuals and international organisations, as well as states. TEAS is organising events within the Justice for Khojaly campaign in London, Paris, Strasbourg, Brussels, Berlin, Bern, Istanbul, Ankara, Rome, Luxembourg and Vilnius, in addition to tonight’s screening in Dublin. “*Endless Corridor* is a film that came about because Richard Lapaitis, a Lithuanian journalist and witness of the horror of Khojaly, could not let the experience lie or forget the people who survived. He returned with a touching and humane desire to find out how they coped with memories of loved ones killed before their eyes. Russian journalist Victoria Ivleva also returned to reunite with Mehriban, a mother whose two-day-old baby she had saved in the confusion. The stories are of ordinary people whose lives were devastated by the Armenian invasion of their land.” “This is not a ‘frozen’ conflict, as it is often erroneously dubbed. Across the ‘contact line’ between Azerbaijan and the occupied territories, there is shooting on a daily basis, and the past year saw 72 record deaths, the worst since the ceasefire in 1994. “Indeed just recently, Armenian occupying forces have captured and tried two Azerbaijanis named Dilham Asgarov and Shahbaz Guliyev, who were seized when visiting their relatives’ graves in the Armenian-occupied region of Kalbajar – which has subsequently been condemned by Federica Mogherini, Vice-President, European Commission and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, as an unlawful act, given they are civilians. In December, an illegal ‘court’ sentenced them to 22 years and life, respectively.” Veteran Irish Senator Terry Leyden (Fianna Fáil) said: “Whilst we gather here in Dublin in the beautiful surroundings of The Light House cinema, a very short distance from the River Liffey, it is worth remembering that in cities across Europe and beyond tonight and around this time, the documentary we are about to see premiered in Dublin will also receive its country premieres before audiences gathered in Ankara, Moscow, Berlin, Paris, Brussels and Prague. “I want to commend the Lithuanian producer and director, Aleksandras Brokas and the American co-producer Gerald Rafshoon for undertaking the project and bringing the film to the big screen. This was five years in the making and involved film professionals from 15 countries in order to provide an independent point-of-view on the situation in the region. “Tonight’s documentary is about real events; real lives; real conflicts; and a real tragedy. As a national politician who is, and who has been for many years, actively engaged in dialogue at international level – be that in Brussels, Strasbourg or elsewhere across Europe and beyond – I have come to learn a great deal about Azerbaijan, its people, its issues, and chief amongst all of this, the Armenian–Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.” Leon Cook went on to launch the book *Khojaly Witness of a War Crime: Armenia in the Dock*. He explained: “It is 23 years since the worst massacre of the Armenian–Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. The perpetrators still dispute responsibility for what happened in and around Khojaly on the night of 25–26 February 1992. “This book was published last year to set the record straight, and contains first-hand documented evidence. It includes interviews with witnesses of the events in Khojaly, materials published in the international press, the views of foreign researchers, reports from international organisations, and rare pictures taken by international photographers.”

[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Khojaly\\_victims\\_commemorated\\_in\\_Dublin-833206](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Khojaly_victims_commemorated_in_Dublin-833206)

**Musical remembrance of Khojaly victims in heart of Strasbourg  
(February 18, 2015)**

On 18 February 2015, a moving classical concert took place amidst the stunning surroundings of Strasbourg, in the beautiful Salle Mozart, in commemoration of the victims of the Khojaly Massacre in 1992 – the worst single atrocity of the Armenian–Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. This claimed the lives of 613 civilian victims in 1992, including 70 elderly people, 106 women and 63 children. The event was attended by more than 150 guests including diplomats, representatives of international institutions, private sector, civil society and media. After a welcome speech by Emin Eyyubov, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Council of Europe, Marie-Laetitia Gourdin, Head of TEAS France explained: “TEAS is proud to organise these events in memory of Khojaly victims within the framework of the Justice for Khojaly campaign, which is an international awareness campaign initiated by Mrs. Leyla Aliyeva, Vice-President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. The Justice for Khojaly international campaign was launched on 8 May 2008. The campaign’s rapid development is a measure of international support for the restoration of justice in the region. This support has been expressed at events in over 100 countries in Europe, America, Asia and Africa, and has come from individuals and international organisations, as well as states. TEAS is organising events within the JFK campaign in London, Paris, Strasbourg, Brussels, Berlin, Bern, Dublin, Istanbul, Ankara, Rome, Luxembourg and Vilnius. “It is appropriate that tonight’s commemoration takes the form of a classical concert as a tribute to Azerbaijan immaterial cultural heritage, as Khojaly is located in the Armenian-occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, which is a cultural hub and synonymous with the development of the country’s musical heritage. The town of Shusha, currently in ruins, was known as the Conservatoire of the Caucasus. It was the birthplace for many of Azerbaijan’s leading musicians, singers and composers, including Uzeyir Hajibeyli, the father of Azerbaijani classical music; Sadigjan, who developed the Azerbaijani tar; many of the finest mugham singers; and the legendary opera singer Bul-Bul, who trained at La Scala, Milan. In accordance with a mythical ambiance of historical building dating back to the Age of Enlightenment (18th century), the concert program meticulously blended Azerbaijani and European classical and modern pieces, performed by talented and internationally renowned musicians – Renara Akhoundova (piano), Sarah Nemtanu (violin), Alexander Somov (cello) and Saida Zulfugarova (piano). “Tonight is also dedicated to Dilham Asgarov and Shahbaz Guliyev, two Azerbaijani civilians who were captured by the occupying forces in July when tending the graves of their relatives in their historic homeland. In December, an illegal ‘court’ sentenced them to 22 years and life, respectively. I urge all of those present to lobby the French government to place pressure on the Armenian government so they may be set free.” Despite the passing of four UN Security Council resolutions against the invasion, Armenia continues to occupy Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts to this day. Currently nearly 20 per cent of Azerbaijani territory remains occupied, and approximately 875,000 refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain spread across Azerbaijan. The evening was dedicated to the memory of the Khojaly victims and those Azerbaijanis who have one wish – to return home in peace.

**[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Musical\\_remembrance\\_of\\_Khojaly\\_victims\\_in\\_heart\\_of\\_Strasbourg-833548](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Musical_remembrance_of_Khojaly_victims_in_heart_of_Strasbourg-833548)**

**Meeting-requiem on memory of Khojaly victims took place in Zaporozhye  
(February 19, 2015)**

A meeting-requiem devoted to memory of the victims of the Khojaly tragedy took place in Zaporozhye, Ukraine. This is the second action organized by honorable consulate of Azerbaijan in the city of Kharkov. As earlier reported, a similar action was held in Chernigov. On the initiative and with assistance of the honorable consul of Azerbaijan in Kharkov Afgan Salmanov, the residents of six largest regional centers of Ukraine were informed about the most bloody page in the Armenian-Azerbaijani, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, about the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan. In Zaporozhye which is the cradle of the Ukrainian Cossacks, the action was attended by officials of the Oblast Administration, representatives of regional and Mayoral councils, enterprises, higher educational institutions and students who came to learn the truth about the Khojaly slaughter. Speaking to the participants Afgan Salmanov noted that today the Azerbaijani people demand only justice. "The world community is obliged to know the truth about this tragedy. It is necessary not only for Azerbaijanis, it is necessary for the whole world not to allow similar crimes against humanity in the future!", - the honorable consul stressed.

**[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Meeting\\_requiem\\_on\\_memory\\_of\\_Khojaly\\_victims\\_took\\_place\\_in\\_Zaporozhye-833247](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Meeting_requiem_on_memory_of_Khojaly_victims_took_place_in_Zaporozhye-833247)**

**Benelux countries to host “Khojaly week”  
(February 19, 2015)**

Benelux Azerbaijanis Congress (BAC) will hold a "Khojaly week" in Benelux countries from February 23 to mark the 23rd anniversary of the Khojaly genocide, according to the State Committee for Work with Diaspora. Diaspora organizations in Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg will arrange a series of events as part of the “Khojaly week”. The events will feature demonstration of "Memory" film by director Vahid Mustafayev, "Hatred of fascism - Justice for Khojaly" sketch made by students of Amsterdam and Rotterdam School of Mother Tongue. On February 25, an awareness campaign will be launched by BAC Youth Coordinating Council in the Dutch cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague, Haarlem, Tilburq, Utrecht, Leeuwarden, Sneek and Heerenveen. On February 26, BAC members will hold "Khojaly-23" campaign that will see them light candles in the Bakustraat Street in Rotterdam. They will also lay a wreath at the bas-relief of national hero of the Netherlands, Azerbaijani Mammad Mammadov, and at a memorial for victims of the Holocaust in Brussels.

**[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Benelux\\_countries\\_to\\_host\\_Khojaly\\_week-833332](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Benelux_countries_to_host_Khojaly_week-833332)**

**Khojaly genocide discussed at Mexican Congress  
(February 20, 2015)**

The federal deputy of the PT, Magdalena del Socorro Nunez Monreal, considered that the fight against the issues of enforced disappearance and genocide is still pending in the legislative agenda of Congress. As she led the second day of the International Conference on Enforced Disappearances and Genocide in the Legislative Palace of San Lazaro, she recalled that in response to the pronouncements of the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), the Senate is working in a Bill on Forced Disappearance of Persons. She felt that the legal standard should be "effective legal recognition of human dignity" as highlighted by international instruments to which Mexico is a party. "It is based on the recognition of the principle of universal validity of human dignity, referred to in the Constitution, that legislators should worry about strengthening our regulatory framework for the human rights in an intangible way, understanding why we can't or neither should they be touched," she added. Monreal Nunez said that Monday's activities were devoted to analyzing the genocide in Khojaly, Azerbaijan. The contributions of these meetings in San Lazaro, to analyze the different cases of genocide around the world, will be of great use to enrich the necessary initiatives to strengthen the rule of law in Mexico, emphasized the legislator. "The principle of human dignity is what must move legislators to carry out the work on these atrocious behaviors that bring us together today: the forced disappearance and genocide," he said. In turn, the promoter of Peace and Defender of Human Rights, Alfredo Rojas Diaz, said the aim of the conference against disappearances and genocide is to create an awareness to educate and inform new generations on these issues and eradicate such crimes. In his participation, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilgar Mukhtarov presented the case of Khojaly - a now-nonexistent people of the nation that he represents when Armenian forces in February 1992, supported by a regiment of the former Union Soviet, committed genocide against innocent civilians. In fact, 613 people were killed, including 106 women and 83 children; 56 of these people were killed with an unusual brutality, eight families were completely exterminated; 25 children lost both parents and 130 lost one of their parents, according to official reports. He said that even today, 20 percent of Azerbaijani territory is occupied by Armenia and for that reason there are at least one million refugees and internally displaced persons. Derived from this, the United Nations (UN) has issued four resolutions of the Security Council requesting that Armenia unilaterally withdraw its military forces and allows civilians to return home; however, that nation has not recognized international law and continues its policy of occupation. The goal, he said, is "to bring justice to the victims of Khojaly, while rebuking those who violated rights and have the blood of Azerbaijanis in their hands." Moreover, he thanked Mexico, which, through the House of Representatives passed a resolution supporting the decisions of the Security Council of the UN in 2011. Azerbaijani ambassador also highlighted the support that other nations have given to that region. He explained that since seven years ago he has spread the information about this conflict through conferences and forums to attract attention of politicians and civil society. Despite that, he said, "there is a double standard in the world as there is information that is disseminated instantly and there is another which is not." Taking the floor, the Ambassador of Ukraine in Mexico, Ruslan Spirin, highlighted the support of Mexico so that it recognizes and respects the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of their country, through the Chamber of Deputies, the Group friendship Mexico-Ukraine, chaired by Deputy Elba Rosa Perez Hernandez (PVEM). "Together we will win," he stressed, and thanked the society and the Mexican authorities, as well as to Members interested in that dialogue is the mechanism to settle disputes peacefully. "In our globalized world we can not be isolated, what happens in any country affects everyone and we can not be ignorant of what happens," said the diplomat. He said the suffering of societies because of the forced disappearance of innocent people and noted that Mexico understood like nobody the pain at the loss of life of students, which caused suffering in the world and humanity, because they are experiencing globalization. The event was also attended by the ambassadors of Pakistan, Bulgaria, Georgia and Slovakia.

[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Khojaly\\_genocide\\_discussed\\_at\\_Mexican\\_Congress-833785](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Khojaly_genocide_discussed_at_Mexican_Congress-833785)

**Azerbaijani, Turkish diasporas in Germany launch Khojaly awareness campaign  
(February 21, 2015)**

Azerbaijani and Turkish diaspora organizations in Germany have started an awareness raising campaign on the Khojaly genocide at the Bielefeld University, and installed a stand marking the 23rd anniversary of the massacre. The stand, with Azerbaijani, Turkish and German flags, included books and magazines featuring information about Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and Armenian vandalism. Throughout the day, the organizers informed teachers and students on the Khojaly genocide, and distributed books, magazines and brochures about Azerbaijani truths.

**Vugar Seyidov**  
**Special Correspondent**

**[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Azerbaijani\\_Turkish\\_diasporas\\_in\\_Germany\\_launch\\_Khojaly\\_awareness\\_campaign-833907](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Azerbaijani_Turkish_diasporas_in_Germany_launch_Khojaly_awareness_campaign-833907)**

**Students of Cairo University stage rally to commemorate victims of Khojaly genocide  
(February 22, 2015)**

Students of the Cairo University staged the rally dedicated to the 23rd anniversary of the Khojaly genocide. Egyptian students gathered in the Al Azhar Park to commemorate the victims of the terrible genocide committed against Azerbaijani innocent people in Khojaly city by the units of the Armenian armed forces on the night of February 25-26, 1992. They held candles and banners reading “Justice for Khojaly!” to demonstrate solidarity with Azerbaijani people. Student Mustafa Hamdi said the rally staged by students was not first. According to him, last year they organized a bicycle marathon “Together against terrorism” to condemn the military aggression, committed in Azerbaijan’s Khojaly city, in the result of which 613 innocent people, including women, children and elders were killed. The Egyptian media has published articles on the rally.

<http://www.vetogate.com/1488664>

<http://www.3ageel.net/2015/02/20/%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%B7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%A8-%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D9%8A%D9%86%D8%B8%D9%85%D9%88%D9%86-%D9%88%D9%82%D9%81%D8%A9.html>

**Asya Hajizade**  
**AzerTAc’s special correspondent**  
**Cairo**

**Rustavi commemorates victims of Khojaly genocide  
(February 22, 2015)**

Victims of the Khojaly genocide were commemorated in Rustavi, Georgia, within the “Justice for Khojaly!” international campaign, initiated by vice-president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva. The attendees, first, observed a minute of silence to honor the memory of shahids. Speakers of the event, including chairman of the Cultural Center of Azerbaijanis Khaladdin Yolchuyev and head of the youth department of the Center of Culture of Georgian Azerbaijanis Nargiz Aliyeva highlighted the consequences of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and stressed the massacre that Armenians committed in Khojaly was real genocide. Nargiz Aliyeva underlined the role of the “Justice for Khojaly!” international campaign in delivering the truths about the tragedy to the world. Addressing the event, representatives of Rustavi city administration and Kvemo Kartli province Koba Gardasanidze and Zura Baydarashvili underlined everyone, irrespective of their nationality must curse those who committed that crime, and the world community must give a legal assessment to the tragedy.

**Xatayi Azizov**  
**Special correspondent**  
**Tbilisi**

**[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Rustavi\\_commemorates\\_victims\\_of\\_Khojaly\\_genocide-834066](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Rustavi_commemorates_victims_of_Khojaly_genocide-834066)**

**Polish writer: Khojaly massacre committed by Armenians is the bloodiest page in Azerbaijani history  
(February 23, 2015)**

“Khojaly massacre committed by the Armenians is the bloodiest page in the history of Azerbaijani,” said the Polish traveler, writer and editor of “Rurociagi” (Pipelines) edition Witold Stanisław Michałowski at the presentation of his new book. The event was attended by Polish writers and publicists and representatives of diplomatic corps. During the presentation, Michałowski gave information about the countries he has visited, their history, culture and traditions. Giving a special spot to Azerbaijan, the author mentioned the country’s history, culture and people. Michałowski stressed Azerbaijan’s important role in sustaining energy security of Europe. Touching upon Armenian invasion of Azerbaijani lands, Michałowski mentioned the genocide committed against the peaceful people. The Polish writer noted that more than 20 percent of Azerbaijani territories were occupied by the Armenians. The occupation of Azerbaijani lands by Armenians which still continues today caused brutal massacre of hundreds of people. He said: “Maybe you are not aware of Armenian terror. You should know that during the last century Azerbaijani people many times were subjected to Armenian terror.”

**[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Polish\\_writer\\_Khojaly\\_massacre\\_committed\\_by\\_Armenians\\_is\\_the\\_bloodiest\\_page\\_in\\_Azerbaijani\\_history-834111](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Polish_writer_Khojaly_massacre_committed_by_Armenians_is_the_bloodiest_page_in_Azerbaijani_history-834111)**

**Los Angeles Jewish Synagogue remembers Khojaly Massacre victims  
(February 23, 2015)**

A commemorative event honoring the victims of the Khojaly massacre has been held at the Los Angeles-based “Pico Shul” synagogue. Khojaly massacre took place on Feb. 26, 1992, when Armenian armed forces attacked the town of Khojaly in Azerbaijan and massacred 613 civilians, including hundreds of children, women and elderly people. The Human Rights Watch called it the “largest massacre in the conflict”. Opening the event, the Founder of the Pico Shul synagogue Rabbi Yonah Bookstein said the following: “Today we stand together as Jews and Azerbaijanis, to bear witness and to mourn the awful tragedy that befell the residents of Khojaly 23 years ago. We are grateful for the friendship of the Republic of Azerbaijan, both with the State of Israel and Jewish communities across the world. I pray that our friendship continues to grow and deepen, bringing peace and prosperity to our peoples.” Consul General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles Nasimi Aghayev thanked the “Pico Shul” synagogue and the Jewish community for sharing the pain of the Azerbaijani people. He noted that this commemoration was historic, because it was the first Khojaly remembrance event at a Jewish synagogue in the U.S. The Consul General highlighted the strong bonds of centuries-old friendship between the Azerbaijani and Jewish people. He mentioned that when over the centuries Jews were persecuted in surrounding regions, they found safe heaven in Azerbaijan. Aghayev also highlighted the great outcomes achieved in terms of the recognition of the Khojaly massacre by the world community and mentioned in this regard the “Justice for Khojaly” campaign led by Mrs. Leyla Aliyeva. The survivor of the Khojaly massacre Anar Usubov shared his painful memories of that cold night. He noted that as a result of this massacre he not only lost dozens of his family members and relatives, but also his entire childhood and youth. Speaking afterwards, the member of the “Pico Shul” community and a grand-child of a Holocaust survivor Emily Pflaster said: “The beautiful friendship between Azerbaijan and Jewish communities is the most important template for peace that exists today. We must create awareness, both of the intense pain suffered by the victims of Khojaly, and the still occupied 20% of Azerbaijani territory by violent Armenian forces, those same forces that deny the massacre took place. As Jews, we know the consequences of persecution and the denial that it ever happened. We are honored to support our friend, Azerbaijan, in creating a lasting recognition and healing for their tragedies and their country. This is the least we can do for our friends. ” Following the remarks, the attendees watched a video testimony by Mrs Durdane Aghayeva, another survivor of the massacre. In the video Mrs Aghayeva speaks about the torture and humiliation she had to undergo in the Armenian captivity, when she was just 20 years old. The video testimony was prepared by the Consulate General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles. The attendees were also treated to the performance of Holocaust-related songs by a famous Jewish violinist Leah Jacobson and acquainted themselves with a photo exhibition dedicated to the massacre. The event ended with a prayer by Rabbi Yonah honoring all innocent victims of the Khojaly massacre. It should be mentioned that some members of the Armenian lobby, who continue to deny the Khojaly massacre, painted various insulting graffiti on the outside walls of the Pico Shul synagogue on the eve of the commemoration.

**Yusif Babanlı  
Special Correspondent**

**[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Los\\_Angelos\\_Jewish\\_Synagogue\\_remembers\\_Khojaly\\_Massacre\\_victims-834124](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Los_Angelos_Jewish_Synagogue_remembers_Khojaly_Massacre_victims-834124)**

**23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Khojaly genocide commemorated in Vienna  
(February 23, 2015)**

A conference dedicated to the 23rd anniversary of the Khojaly genocide has been held in Vienna, Austria. The event brought together representatives of Azerbaijani and Turkish diasporas, employees of the embassies of the two countries and members of the local society. The conference started with the demonstration of a documentary on the Khojaly genocide. Head of the Austria Azerbaijan Culture and Businessmen's Association Yardim Gunes spoke of the genocide, adding a lot of civilians were killed during the massacre, and stressed the importance of holding such conferences in terms of delivering the Khojaly truths to the world community. Member of Azerbaijan's Milli Majlis Azay Guliyev and Turkish MP, head of the Turkish-Azerbaijan Association Sinan Ogan delivered reports at the event. Guliyev underlined the role of the "Justice for Khojaly!" campaign in delivering the truths about the Khojaly genocide to the world.

**Elgun Niftaliyev  
Special Correspondent**

**[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/23rd\\_anniversary\\_of\\_Khojaly\\_genocide\\_commemorated\\_in\\_Vienna\\_V](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/23rd_anniversary_of_Khojaly_genocide_commemorated_in_Vienna_V)  
IDEO-834174**

**New Mexico Governor condemns Khojaly massacre  
(February 23, 2015)**

The Governor of the U.S. State of New Mexico Susana Martinez signed a letter on February 23 condemning the Khojaly massacre, which was committed by Armenia against the Azerbaijani civilians in 1992. The letter was received by the Consulate General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles. In the letter, the Governor extends her “sincere condolences to the many Azerbaijanis living in New Mexico and around the globe as they observe the 23rd anniversary of the Khojaly massacre and honor the victims”. Governor Martinez writes: “The tragedy in the town of Khojaly in Azerbaijan resulted in the death of over 600 innocent civilians, including many women, children, and elderly, on February 25th and 26th, 1992.” The Governor concludes her letter by saying that “this event in Khojaly is a sobering reminder of the terrible carnage that can be inflicted in wartime and the enduring need for greater understanding, communication and tolerance among people all over the world.” It is noteworthy that this is the first official document on the Khojaly massacre signed by a New Mexico Governor.

**Yusif Babanlı  
Special Correspondent**

**[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/New\\_Mexico\\_Governor\\_condemns\\_Khojaly\\_massacre-834816](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/New_Mexico_Governor_condemns_Khojaly_massacre-834816)**

**Souls of the Khojaly victims remembered in Paris  
(February 23, 2015)**

On 23 February, a moving classical concert took place amidst the stunning surroundings of the historic Theatre Adyar in the heart of Paris to commemorate the victims of the Khojaly Massacre in 1992 – the worst single atrocity of the Armenian–Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. This claimed the lives of 613 civilian victims in 1992, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people. Over 250 diplomats, business leaders, music aficionados living in Paris and members of the Azerbaijani diaspora attended the concert. Dignitaries present included Mrs Nigar Huseynova, First Secretary, Azerbaijani Embassy to France and Pierre Thilloy, whose work *Lamento – In Memoriam* was premiered that evening, having been written in memory of the victims. In June 1944, towards the end of World War II, the occupying Nazi forces destroyed the French town of Oradour-sur-Glane and 642 innocent townspeople were brutally executed. The devastated town has been left in its current state for over 70 years so the world does not forget the brutality of war on ordinary lives. Making a direct parallel with Khojaly – whose death toll was similar – Philippe Lacroix, Mayor of Oradour and Benoit Sadry, Representative, National Association for the Families of Martyrs, also attended the concert as a mark of solidarity. The ongoing volatility of the conflict was emphasised by vandalism of the walls and pavements around the theatre by an isolated group of Armenian extremists with insulting comments concerning Azerbaijan. Marie-Laetitia Gordin, Director, The European Azerbaijan Society (TEAS) explained: “TEAS is organising a series of events within the framework of the Justice for Khojaly campaign, initiated in 2008 by Mrs Leyla Aliyeva, and now active in more than 100 countries. This calls for the restoration of justice and peace in the region. This year, TEAS is presenting Khojaly commemorations in London, Strasbourg, Brussels, Bern, Dublin, Istanbul, Ankara, Rome, Vilnius and Luxembourg – in addition to tonight’s event in Paris. Usually, when Azerbaijan is discussed in France, this focuses on its geographic situation and history. Often there is a lack of information, and that which is available is biased and misleading. “The organisation of a concert of this kind is most appropriate, as it pays an homage to the cultural legacy of the Azerbaijani occupied regions. The town of Shusha, for example, was the birthplace of many great Azerbaijani musicians, including Uzeyir Hajibeyli, father of Azerbaijani classical music. The evening featured three outstanding Azerbaijani musicians – Arslan Novrasli, player of the tar, an Azerbaijani national instrument, developed in Nagorno-Karabakh; Sabina Rakcheyeva (violin); and Nazrin Rashidova (violin), who led her all-female FeMusa Orchestra. In addition to the new work *Lamento – In memoriam*, performed by Sabina and Nazrin and incorporating the plaintive sound of the mugham singer, the programme comprised a mixture of Azerbaijani and European music. The selection was drawn from some of the most renowned Azerbaijani composers, including Gara Garayev’s *Funeral Ode* and two works featuring the evocative tar of Arslan Novrasli – Vasif Adigezalov’s *Carnation* and Azer Rzayev’s *Meditation*. These were performed alongside uplifting and reflective works by Antonio Vivaldi, Paul Lewis, Karl Jenkins and Gabriel Fauré.

[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Souls\\_of\\_the\\_Khojaly\\_victims\\_remembered\\_in\\_Paris-834805](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Souls_of_the_Khojaly_victims_remembered_in_Paris-834805)

**23rd anniversary of Khojaly massacre marked in Aktau  
(February 24, 2015)**

Azerbaijan`s Consulate General in Aktau has organized a commemorative ceremony to mark the 23rd anniversary of the Khojaly massacre. The event brought together students, officials of “Friendship” Azerbaijan`s Cultural Center in Mangistau Region, public figures, representatives of Azerbaijani Diaspora and journalists. Azerbaijan`s Consul General Rashad Mammadov informed about the Khojaly genocide committed by Armenians against the peaceful people of the Khojaly town of Azerbaijan on February 26, 1992.

**[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/23rd\\_anniversary\\_of\\_Khojaly\\_massacre\\_marked\\_in\\_Aktau\\_VIDEO-834406](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/23rd_anniversary_of_Khojaly_massacre_marked_in_Aktau_VIDEO-834406)**

**Members of Lithuanian Seimas adopt appeal on Khojaly Genocide  
(February 24, 2015)**

Fifty-one members of the Seimas of Lithuania have adopted an appeal on the Khojaly Genocide. In the document, the Lithuanian MPs offer their condolences and sympathies to the people of Azerbaijan, and say they condemn any crime against humanity. The MPs reiterated Lithuania's support for Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, and urged soonest withdrawal of the occupying forces from Azerbaijan's occupied lands. Twenty-six of the MPs who signed the appeal are members of the Social Democratic Party majority political group.

**[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Members\\_of\\_Lithuanian\\_Seimas\\_adapt\\_appeal\\_on\\_Khojaly\\_Genocide](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Members_of_Lithuanian_Seimas_adapt_appeal_on_Khojaly_Genocide)  
-834469**

**Khojaly genocide victims commemorated in Almaty  
(February 24, 2015)**

Organized by the Azerbaijani Embassy in Kazakhstan and supported by “Ozan” Azerbaijanis Association a commemorative action was held here in the frame of “Justice for Khojaly” campaign. The event was attended by socio-political figures and representatives of Azerbaijani Diaspora organizations. The memory of the Khojaly victims was honored with a moment of silence. Speakers noted the necessity of bringing this horrible crime of the Armenians committed in Khojaly town to the world community, not to forget this bloody page of the history of Azerbaijan. This, according to the speakers, was a crime against humanity, the innocent people, and expressed sorrow that the tragedy has not get its political-legal assessment yet among the world community.

**Ilaha Ahmadova,  
Special correspondent  
Almaty**

**[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Khojaly\\_genocide\\_victims\\_commemorated\\_in\\_Almaty-834473](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Khojaly_genocide_victims_commemorated_in_Almaty-834473)**

**Azerbaijani diaspora stages Khojaly rally outside Canada`s parliament  
(February 24, 2015)**

Azerbaijanis living in Canada have staged a protest rally outside the Canadian parliament building in Ottawa to mark the 23rd anniversary of the Khojaly Genocide. Organized by Azerbaijani students who receive education at the universities of Waterloo and Toronto, the rally also involved Turkish students. The protesters, who held Azerbaijani and Turkish flags, urged international recognition for the Khojaly Genocide. They distributed brochures and magazines about the Khojaly Genocide among local residents and guests of the Canadian capital.

**[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Azerbaijani\\_diaspora\\_stages\\_Khojaly\\_rally\\_outside\\_Canadas\\_parliament-834535](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Azerbaijani_diaspora_stages_Khojaly_rally_outside_Canadas_parliament-834535)**

**Azerbaijani scientists attend international conference in Turkey  
(February 24, 2015)**

Institute of Philosophy and Law of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (ANAS) and Melikshah University of Turkey hold an international conference on the 23rd anniversary of the Khojaly Genocide, in Turkey. Deputy Director of the Azerbaijani Institute Gabil Jamalov said Azerbaijan will be represented at this event by the Director of Social Philosophy and Law Institute, Professor Ilham Memmedzade, Deputy Director, Doctor of Law Bahram Zahidov and department head Habil Gurbanov.

**[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Azerbaijani\\_scientists\\_attend\\_international\\_conference\\_in\\_Turkey-834564](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Azerbaijani_scientists_attend_international_conference_in_Turkey-834564)**

**“The Times of Israel” newspaper publishes article by famous expert Arye Gut  
(February 24, 2015)**

“The Times of Israel” newspaper has issued an article by famous Israel-based expert in international relations Arye Gut headlined “Only in Azerbaijan”. The article reads: “Marking the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, this grandson of Boris Stoyanovsky, an officer in the Soviet Army, whose family was murdered by the Nazis in Ukraine, participated in an International Holocaust Remembrance Day conference. What made this a unique endeavor is that I travelled to a Muslim-majority nation, the Republic of Azerbaijan for the conference, co-organized by the Baku International Multiculturalism Center and Baku Slavic University. What was I doing attending an International Holocaust Remembrance Day conference in a Muslim-majority nation when I live in Israel of all places? What was a Muslim-majority country doing hosting an event of this sort, you may ask? During the conference, my Azerbaijani friends expressed their pain and condemnation of the cruel actions and genocide perpetrated by the Nazi fascist regime against my people, the Jewish people. As they pointed out, in 1933 the Jewish population in Europe stood at over nine million. By 1945, the Germans and their collaborators killed nearly two out of every three European Jews as part of the “Final Solution,” the Nazi policy to murder the Jews of Europe. During the conference’s discourse, I viscerally felt that Azerbaijanis perceived the pain and suffering of the Jewish people as their own. As a citizen of the State of Israel, it is clear to me that the leadership of Azerbaijan has not only incorporated attitudes toward Jews that transcends mere tolerance into its policies, but also into the fabric of its society. Further, it is evident and clear that Jews and Muslims in Azerbaijan peacefully coexisted as brothers — and have become forever linked through common history and destiny. What does the Holocaust and Khojaly have in common? Although very different, it is important to note that Israeli President Rubi Rivlin touched upon the Khojaly in his speech to the UN General Assembly at the event dedicated to the International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Khojaly, a town in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, still occupied today by the now quasi-independent Armenia, was home to nearly 25,000 Azerbaijanis. On a February day in 1992, the roads from Khojaly to surrounding Azerbaijan were cut off and blockaded by Armenian forces and troops of the former USSR intent on the ethnic cleaning of the Azerbaijani population. The only option for the Khojaly population was to flee the town on foot, a treacherous journey. On the eve of February 25th, Armenian armed forces began the final takeover of the area. Khojaly residents were told that if they evacuated they would be granted safe passage – they were soon to discover that this was a horrific act of deception. As the entire town’s population began to flee Khojaly, Armenian armed forces and members of the No. 366 Soviet motorized rifle regiment confronted the townspeople with fierce gunfire. The terrified and unarmed population, including woman and children, were slaughtered. As a result of the atrocities of the Armenian armed forces, 613 people were killed and 487 people were crippled. The elderly, children and women who were captured were subjected to unprecedented torture, abuse and humiliation. Khojaly was not only directed against the Azerbaijani people. It is, in no uncertain terms, a crime against humanity. Today high ranking posts in Armenia are occupied by perpetrators of the atrocities of Khojaly and many others – current Armenian defense minister Seyran Ohanyan, current Armenian President Serj Sargsyan and former Armenian President Robert Kocharyan and others. Said Serj Sarqsyian to British journalist Thomas de Waal 23 years ago, “Before Khojali, the Azerbaijanis thought that they were joking with us, they thought that the Armenians were people who could not raise their hand against the civilian population. We were able to break that stereotype.” It is impossible to imagine international acceptance of prominent Nazi war criminals, especially those, who bragged about their crimes as respectable politicians. Shouldn’t the perpetrators of Khojaly be held to the same standard?”

**[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/The\\_Times\\_of\\_Israel\\_newspaper\\_publishes\\_article\\_by\\_famous\\_expert\\_Arye\\_Gut-834612](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/The_Times_of_Israel_newspaper_publishes_article_by_famous_expert_Arye_Gut-834612)**

**Swiss audience moved by plight of Khojaly victims  
(February 25, 2015)**

The new independent documentary *Endless Corridor* was shown at the prestigious Bellevue Hotel in the Swiss capital of Bern. The screening commemorated the victims of the Khojaly Massacre in 1992 – the worst single atrocity of the Armenian–Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh – which claimed the lives of 613 civilian victims in 1992. The death toll included 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people. The evening also saw the launch of the book *Khojaly Witness of a War Crime: Armenia in the Dock* and a presentation of the book *The Forgotten Conflict* by Swiss journalist Andre Widmer. Speaking before the audience of 120 politicians, VIPs and press representatives, Akram Zeynalli, Azerbaijani Ambassador to Switzerland, opened the event explaining: “There are tragic pages in the history of almost all nations around the world, and Azerbaijan is no exception. This appalling crime happened quite recently, but has not been paid the attention it deserves by the international community. The Justice for Khojaly campaign, initiated by Mrs Leyla Aliyeva, Vice-President, Heydar Aliyev Foundation, was launched on 8 May 2008. The campaign’s rapid pace has seen the atrocities of Khojaly recognised by the parliaments of Colombia, the Czech Republic, Romania, Serbia, Honduras, Peru, Panama, Pakistan, Mexico, Jordan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sudan as well as 15 states in the US. “Today’s campaign seeks to bring truth to the Swiss audience. We believe that the Swiss parliament, which always champions humanitarian values, will support our voice and join their colleagues in the aforementioned countries in a just assessment of the Khojaly Massacre.” Ian Peart, Project Co-ordinator, The European Azerbaijan Society (TEAS) introduced the launch of the book *Khojaly Witness of a War Crime: Armenia in the Dock*, saying: “The book is the first independent publication about the Khojaly Massacre to be published in the West in English. Unique in its presentation of irrefutable hard information, the book includes interviews with witnesses of the events in Khojaly, materials published in the international press, the views of foreign researchers, reports from international organisations and rare pictures taken by international photographers.” He also explained the significance of the landmark documentary *Endless Corridor*, commenting: “This film came about because Richard Lapaitis, a Lithuanian journalist and witness of the horrors of Khojaly, could not let the experience lie or forget the people who survived. The stories are of ordinary people whose lives were devastated by the Armenian invasion of their land. The international community always speaks of compromise. After all that the Azerbaijani people have given up and lost, what further compromise can we possibly expect of them? They have the right to go home.” Swiss journalist Andre Widmer, when speaking about his book *The Forgotten Conflict*, recounted the devastation he had seen on the ‘contact line’ between Azerbaijan and the occupied territories. He also recalled the admission by the Armenians he had interviewed of their deliberate and complete destruction of the Azerbaijani city of Aghdam. The fact that they strictly prohibited him from filming there was, in his eyes, a further admission of their guilt. He said: “In this time of ongoing conflict, we should not forget about Nagorno-Karabakh and its victims. It is important to bring the perpetrators sooner or later to justice. In my lifetime, I would like to see Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) being able to return to their rightful homes.”

**[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Swiss\\_audience\\_moved\\_by\\_plight\\_of\\_Khojaly\\_victims-834844](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Swiss_audience_moved_by_plight_of_Khojaly_victims-834844)**

**TEAS organizes Khojaly commemoration concert in London  
(25 February 2015)**

The European Azerbaijan Society (TEAS) has organized a concert in London to commemorate victims of Khojaly genocide. The event was attended by employees of Azerbaijan's Embassy to the United Kingdom, representatives of UK-based Azerbaijani organizations, Azerbaijani and British state officials and public figures. Addressing the event, TEAS director Lionel Zetter highlighted the history of the Khojaly Genocide. He said the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict left more than a million Azerbaijanis refugees and IDPs, adding hundreds were mercilessly killed.

**Orkhan Ismayilov**  
**Special correspondent**

**[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/TEAS\\_organizes\\_Khojaly\\_commemoration\\_concert\\_in\\_London-835068](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/TEAS_organizes_Khojaly_commemoration_concert_in_London-835068)**

**Turkish President offers condolences to Azerbaijani people over Khojaly Genocide  
(February 25, 2015)**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has offered condolences to Azerbaijani people over the Khojaly Genocide. According to the Anadolu Agency, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan noted that 613 Azerbaijanis were savagely killed in Khojaly, part of the Nagorno-Karabakh, which is still under occupation of Armenia. The President stressed that in 1992, Azerbaijanis were subjected to massacre. “We commemorate our shahids, and pray for them. We express condolences to Azerbaijani people and President Ilham Aliyev,” he underlined.

**[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Turkish\\_President\\_offers\\_condolences\\_to\\_Azerbaijani\\_people\\_over\\_Khojaly\\_Genocide-835073](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Turkish_President_offers_condolences_to_Azerbaijani_people_over_Khojaly_Genocide-835073)**

**Governor of U.S. State of Georgia sign statement on Khojaly massacre  
(February 25, 2015)**

The Governor of the U.S. State of Georgia Nathan Deal has signed a statement condemning the Khojaly massacre, which was committed by Armenia against the Azerbaijani civilians in 1992.

The statement was received by the Consulate General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles, APA reports.

In the statement, the Governor extends his “own sympathies for the senseless loss of life that transpired 23 years ago”. “On behalf of the State of Georgia, I join you in mourning their loss,” the Governor notes.

Governor Deal writes: “On February 25, 1992, Azerbaijan experienced a brutal massacre resulting in the death of over 600 civilians”.

The Governor notes: “Events like this are important to remember, and the lives lost in this tragedy should be honored as we strive to ensure that similar acts of horrendous violence do not happen again. I hope that the Azerbaijani community continues to educate Georgians and others about this day in our past that can teach us much in the present... May we never allow such a tragedy to stain the pages of our history again”.

It is noteworthy that this is the first official document on the Khojaly massacre signed by a Georgia Governor.

**<http://en.apa.az/news/223575>**

**Khojaly genocide victims honored in China  
(February 26, 2015)**

The Azerbaijani Embassy in China hosted a commemorative event to mark the 23rd anniversary of Khojaly tragedy. The participants got acquainted with the photo-stand depicting the tragedy moments, as well as the booklets, placards and books released within the “Justice for Khojaly” campaign headed by Leyla Aliyeva, vice-president of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, featuring the bloody crime committed by Armenians. The event was attended by Azerbaijani compatriots living and studying in this country, employees of the Turkey’s military attaché, who revered the memory of Khojaly victims with a moment of silence. The Embassy counselor Matin Mirza spoke of the atrocities of the Armenian nationalists in Khojaly 23 years ago, noting that it was a bloody crime not only against Azerbaijanis, but also against humanity. The Armenian aggressors who have become hostage of their own “Great Armenia” obsession committed massacre against the Azerbaijani people. The crime led to death of 613 people, including 106 women, 63 children, 70 old men. The diplomat stressed the necessity of bringing the truth about the Khojaly tragedy to the world community and make further efforts for its recognition as a genocide. The Embassy’s first secretary Fariz Mammadov informed about the web page created 3 years ago in the Chinese language to highlight the realities about this horrible crime of the Armenians.

**Shahin Jafarov,  
Special correspondent  
Beijing**

**[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Khojaly\\_genocide\\_victims\\_honored\\_in\\_China-835126](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Khojaly_genocide_victims_honored_in_China-835126)**

**Pakistan's Preston University hosts seminar entitled "Khojaly massacre - crime against humanity"  
(February 26, 2015)**

Pakistani Preston University has hosted a seminar entitled "Khojaly massacre - crime against humanity" on the 23rd anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy. The event brought together Pakistan's well-known political figures, heads of leading universities, Ambassadors of Turkey, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Yemen, Turkmenistan and other countries, diplomats and representatives of mass media. A seminar featured a documentary shot by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation depicting the horrors of Khojaly. Rector of Preston University, Professor Abdul Basit highlighted Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, noting that Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh region and 7 adjacent districts have been occupied by Armenians. He noted that as a result of occupation 1 million people became refugees and displaced persons, 20 thousand people have been killed during the war. Professor added that Khojaly genocide committed on the night of 26 February 1992 by Armenian armed forces against the civilians is the bloodiest and most tragic page of this conflict. Dean of the Faculty of International Relations of the International Islamic University Manzur Afridi, dean of the faculty of international relations of Preston University professor Soheyl Mahmud and professor of the Modern Languages University Attic Ur Rehman spoke about the atrocities committed by the Armenian militants against civilians of Khojaly. They underlined that the tragedy has been widely covered by foreign media, citing from the French, Russian, English and Turkish press. They as well stressed the significance of genocide perpetrators bringing to justice. The seminar heard the idea of establishing a memorial dedicated to the memory of the Khojaly genocide victims in Pakistan. The Azerbaijani Ambassador to Pakistan Dashgin Shikarov gave detailed information about the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and Khojaly genocide. The Ambassador expressed gratitude to the Senate of Pakistan and Pakistani people for supporting Azerbaijan's fair position on Nagorno Karabakh conflict, for Senate's adoption of resolution on February 1, 2012 to condemn the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and the Khojaly genocide, as well as the resolution adopted on May 10, 2013 supporting Azerbaijan's territorial integrity once more. After the official part of the seminar Mr. Shikarov in his interview to TRT, Such, GEO and Dawn TV channels highlighted the Khojaly genocide, underlining that the crime was committed not only against the Azerbaijani people, but against the humanity. He noted that all states and international organizations should give proper legal assessment to Khojaly genocide to avoid similar incidents. A photo-exhibition reflecting the horrors of Khojaly genocide has also been featured.

**Gulu Kengerli**  
**Special correspondent**

**[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Pakistans\\_Preston\\_University\\_hosts\\_seminar\\_entitled\\_Khojaly\\_massacre\\_\\_crime\\_against\\_humanity-835173](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Pakistans_Preston_University_hosts_seminar_entitled_Khojaly_massacre__crime_against_humanity-835173)**

**Khojaly Memorial and Museum Complex opened in Ankara  
(February 26, 2015)**

**Khojaly Memorial and Museum Complex in Kizilcahamam district of Ankara has been opened within the series of events held by the Azerbaijani Embassy in Turkey on the occasion of the 23rd anniversary of Khojaly genocide.**

Press service of the Embassy told APA that the event started after a minute's silence in memory of the martyrs, Azerbaijani and Turkish national anthem were played. Firstly, the message of Head of the Turkey-Azerbaijan interparliamentary friendship group Necdet Unuvar was read out. The message says that Turkey share the grief of Khojaly genocide.

Head of Kizilcahamam Executive Authority Muhittin Guney, Deputy Head of the Department for Social and Political Issues at the Presidential Administration Arastun Mehdiyev, Counselor of the Embassy Jeyhun Zeynalov, MP Elman Mammadov, Khojaly resident Ramiz Gahramanov, Deputy Director of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences History Institute Jabi Bahramov and Department Head Gasim Hajiyev delivered speeches about the Khojaly genocide. They gave detailed information about the Khojaly genocide and atrocities committed by the Armenians against our people throughout the history.

The ceremony ended with praying for souls of the martyrs and the soonest liberation of the occupied territories.

<http://en.apa.az/news/223645>

**U.S. Congress commemorates Khojaly massacre  
(February 26, 2015)**

**The US-based Assembly of Friends of Azerbaijan (AFAZ) has organized a special event in Washington in order to commemorate the victims of the Khojaly massacre and demand justice for this tragedy, the Azerbaijani Embassy in the U.S. told APA.**

16 congressmen (Bill Shuster, Pete Olson, Henry Cuellar, Ryan Zinke, Xavier Becerra, Yvette Clarke, Paul Gosar, Al Green, Ted Deutch, Brian Babin, Randy Hultgren, Sheila Jackson Lee, Robert Aderholt, Charlie Dent, Mark Veasey, Doug Lamborn), members of the Azerbaijani Parliament Asim Mollazada and Sevinj Fataliyeva, member of the Senate of France Natalie Goulet, several congressional staff, local public as well as members of Azerbaijani and Turkish communities attended the event held at the Congress.

Making a keynote speech at the event, Azerbaijani Ambassador to the U.S. Elin Suleymanov expressed gratitude to all guests, including the U.S. Congressmen for demonstrating solidarity with the Azerbaijani people.

The ambassador characterized the Khojaly massacre as the most tragic event of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, noting that the commemoration of the massacre victims is not aimed to promote the revenge but to remind the importance of ensuring a lasting peace as soon as possible. Suleymanov expressed the readiness of Azerbaijan for beginning negotiations on a comprehensive peace agreement in the near future. He said that the commemoration of the Khojaly tragedy can prevent future massacres, adding that if this massacre and the occupation that Azerbaijan faced, were properly paid attention previously, other tragic events in our region as well as the casualties in Ukraine would be possible to prevent.

Welcoming the Azerbaijani MPs who are in the U.S. to attend the commemorative events on the Khojaly massacre, the ambassador mentioned that they arrived in Washington following the ceremony in Pennsylvania and on the same day, House of Representatives of the State adopted a resolution on the Khojaly massacre.

Co-Chair of the US-Azerbaijani Friendship Group in the Congress, Bill Shuster said that he feels honored to chair the group. He described Azerbaijan as a strategic partner for the U.S. and underlined the importance of bilateral relations.

The congressman expressed gratitude with Azerbaijan's being among the countries which supported the U.S. following the September 11 terrorist attack. He said that by attending the event at the Congress, he wanted to commemorate those who were killed in Khojaly and sharing the Azerbaijani Ambassador's views, wished peace to be established in the region.

Addressing the event, Pete Olson from Texas said the Azerbaijanis, who managed to escape from Khojaly 23 years ago and sought to asylum, were besieged and killed. He added that a total of 613 civilians were killed by the Armenians, referring to the statement of incumbent Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan "Before Khojaly, the Azerbaijanis thought that the Armenians were people who could not raise their hands against the civilian population. We were able to break that". The congressman called on the other participants not to forget the victims of the Khojaly genocide.

In his speech, Xavier Becerra expressed support for Azerbaijan's position to achieve a lasting resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Congressmen Henry Cuellar, Ryan Zinke, Paul Gosar, Al Green and Ted Deutch spoke of US-Azerbaijan partnership, expressing their support for the further enhancement of relations between the two countries.

Henry Cuellar said hundreds of civilians were killed in the town of Khojaly. Congresswoman Yvette Clarke expressed solidarity with the Azerbaijani people on the occasion of the anniversary of the Khojaly massacre, noting that such tragedies can never be forgotten.

Azerbaijani MPs Asim Mollazade and Sevinj Fataliyeva also spoke about the Khojaly massacre.

Other congressmen and French senator Natalie Goulet paid respect to the Khojaly tragedy victims, noting the importance of resolving the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict as soon as possible.

A photo exhibition dedicated to the Khojaly massacre, which organized as part of the event, displayed the materials prepared within the international campaign "Justice for Khojaly". Moreover, the tragedy victims' names were demonstrated on big screens.

**Israeli FM delivers speech at Khojaly genocide event  
(February 26, 2015)**

**The Israeli city of Acre hosted a commemorative event on the victims of the Khojaly Genocide.**

The event which was organized by the Israel-Azerbaijan International Association (AzIZ) as part of the international campaign “Justice For Khojaly” was attended by Israeli Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, Knesset member Alex Miller, deputy mayor of Acre - Zeev Neumann, Kiryat Yam, and Azerbaijani MP Fuad Muradov.

Representatives of the Israeli public, Azerbaijani diaspora and media outlets also attended the event. A photo exhibition on the Khojaly genocide was displayed as part of the event. These photos were exhibited by AzIZ in a number of Israel’s cities within the campaign “Justice for Khojaly”.

Member of the AzIZ Board of Directors, Rauf Agalarov, opened the event, giving information about the Khojaly tragedy. Then he asked to remember the genocide victims with a minute of silence.

Delivering a keynote speech at the event, Israeli FM Avigdor Lieberman expressed his gratitude to incumbent and former presidents of AzIZ Alex Miller and Joseph Shagal respectively.

Israeli FM Avigdor Liberman said the history of mankind is rife with tragedies.

“They cannot be forgotten. But unfortunately, not everyone remembers them nor takes lesson. We’re here today to combine the experience of Israel with that of Azerbaijan so that we could prevent such tragedies from happening future,” he stressed.

Azerbaijani MP Fuad Muradov said the Justice for Khojaly! campaign is being held in more 100 countries.

AzIs President, Knesset deputy Alex Miller expressed hopefulness that next year the Justice for Khojaly! campaign would be held in the building of Knesset for better promotion of the Khojaly campaign.

**<http://en.apa.az/news/223656>**

**Pakistan's Preston University hosts seminar entitled "Khojaly massacre - crime against humanity"  
(February 26, 2015)**

Pakistani Preston University has hosted a seminar entitled "Khojaly massacre - crime against humanity" on the 23rd anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy. The event brought together Pakistan's well-known political figures, heads of leading universities, Ambassadors of Turkey, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Yemen, Turkmenistan and other countries, diplomats and representatives of mass media. A seminar featured a documentary shot by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation depicting the horrors of Khojaly. Rector of Preston University, Professor Abdul Basit highlighted Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, noting that Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh region and 7 adjacent districts have been occupied by Armenians. He noted that as a result of occupation 1 million people became refugees and displaced persons, 20 thousand people have been killed during the war. Professor added that Khojaly genocide committed on the night of 26 February 1992 by Armenian armed forces against the civilians is the bloodiest and most tragic page of this conflict. Dean of the Faculty of International Relations of the International Islamic University Manzur Afridi, dean of the faculty of international relations of Preston University professor Soheyl Mahmud and professor of the Modern Languages University Attic Ur Rehman spoke about the atrocities committed by the Armenian militants against civilians of Khojaly. They underlined that the tragedy has been widely covered by foreign media, citing from the French, Russian, English and Turkish press. They as well stressed the significance of genocide perpetrators bringing to justice. The seminar heard the idea of establishing a memorial dedicated to the memory of the Khojaly genocide victims in Pakistan. The Azerbaijani Ambassador to Pakistan Dashgin Shikarov gave detailed information about the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and Khojaly genocide. The Ambassador expressed gratitude to the Senate of Pakistan and Pakistani people for supporting Azerbaijan's fair position on Nagorno Karabakh conflict, for Senate's adoption of resolution on February 1, 2012 to condemn the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and the Khojaly genocide, as well as the resolution adopted on May 10, 2013 supporting Azerbaijan's territorial integrity once more. After the official part of the seminar Mr. Shikarov in his interview to TRT, Such, GEO and Dawn TV channels highlighted the Khojaly genocide, underlining that the crime was committed not only against the Azerbaijani people, but against the humanity. He noted that all states and international organizations should give proper legal assessment to Khojaly genocide to avoid similar incidents. A photo-exhibition reflecting the horrors of Khojaly genocide has also been featured.

**Gulu Kengerli**  
**Special correspondent**  
**Azertac**

**European Azerbaijanis Congress appeals to European Parliament on Khojaly genocide  
(February 26, 2015)**

The European Azerbaijanis Congress (EAC) has made an appeal to the European Parliament on the Khojaly genocide's anniversary. The appeal says the night of 25-26 February 1992, the Armenian armed forces, with participation of the Khankendi-based 366th motorized infantry regiment of the Soviet army, attacked and ruined, in one night, the town of Khojaly, which had been encircled during months. In this bloody act, they brutally slaughtered civilians, murdering 613 people, abusing corpses, taking 1275 hostages. Of them, the fate of 150 remains unknown. Of the killed, 63 are children, 106 are women and 70 are elders. The military invasion completely wiped out 8 families. The organization described the Khojaly genocide as the largest atrocity of the conflict and regarded the actions of Armenian forces as a violation of the customary law on the treatment of civilians in war zones.

**Azertac**

**Azerbaijan-Sweden Federation appeals to Swedish Parliament on Khojaly massacre  
(February 26, 2015)**

The Azerbaijan-Sweden Federation has made an appeal to the Parliament of Sweden on the Khojaly genocide`s anniversary. The appeal says the night of 25-26 February 1992, the Armenian armed forces, with participation of the Khankendi-based 366th motorized infantry regiment of the soviet army, attacked and ruined, in one night, the town of Khojaly, which had been encircled during months. In this bloody act, they brutally slaughtered civilians, murdering 613 people, abusing corpses, taking 1275 hostages. Of them, the fate of 150 remains unknown. Of the killed, 63 are children, 106 are women and 70 are elders. The military invasion completely wiped out 8 families.

**Azertac**

**Khojaly genocide victims commemorated in Japan  
(February 26, 2015)**

The Embassy of Azerbaijan in Japan has held an event marking the 23rd anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy. The event, which brought together members of Azerbaijan's diaspora in Japan, public figures and journalists, started with a one-minute-silence in memory of the Khojaly victims. Ambassador Gursel Ismayilzade briefed the event participants on the history of the tragedy. "The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on February 26, 1992. Some 613 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown." He provided an insight into the "Justice for Khojaly" International Awareness Campaign initiated by Vice-president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva.

**Azertac**

**OIC Secretary-General: Acts committed against Azerbaijani civilians crime against humanity  
(February 26, 2015)**

Secretary –General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Iyad bin Amin Madani has made a statement on Khojaly tragedy committed by Armenians against the Azerbaijani civilians in 1992. Iyad bin Amin Madani commemorated all the people who lost their lives during the Khojaly genocide, says the statement posted on OIC official website. The statement says that occupation of 20 percent of Azerbaijani territory by Armenia led to the Khojaly genocide. Mr. Madani referring to resolution adopted by the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers hailed the acts committed against civilians in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan as a crime against humanity. The Secretary-General once more expresses OIC's support to Azerbaijan's initiatives and efforts in terms of putting an end to the occupation of its territories and restoring the territorial integrity.

**Sabir Shahtakhti**  
**Special correspondent**  
**Azertac**

**British MP starts petition on 23rd anniversary of Khojaly massacre  
(February 28, 2015)**

Member of British Parliament, Member of Azerbaijani-British Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group Bob Blackman has started a petition on the twenty third anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy. The petition says that 26 February 2015 is the twenty-third anniversary of the attack on the town of Khojaly, where 613 men, women and children were killed by invading Armenian forces; extends its sympathies to the Azerbaijani people and hopes that the Government can actively encourage a peaceful resolution to the conflict based on the four UN Security Council resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884.

[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/British\\_MP\\_starts\\_petition\\_on\\_23rd\\_anniversary\\_of\\_Khojaly\\_massacre-835765](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/British_MP_starts_petition_on_23rd_anniversary_of_Khojaly_massacre-835765)

**Azerbaijanis stage Khojaly rally outside Swedish parliament  
(March 1, 2015)**

Azerbaijanis living in Sweden have staged a protest rally outside the parliament building in Stockholm to mark the 23rd anniversary of the Khojaly Genocide. The rally was organized by Azerbaijani diaspora organizations in Sweden. Demonstrators held banners condemning the Khojaly Genocide. They distributed photos and brochures promoting the truth about Armenia` committing the massacre in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly in 1992. Some 613 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men, in the genocide. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.”

**Rauf Aliyev**  
**Special Correspondent**  
**[http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Azerbaijanis\\_stage\\_Khojaly\\_rally\\_outside\\_Swedish\\_parliament-835938](http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Azerbaijanis_stage_Khojaly_rally_outside_Swedish_parliament-835938)**

**US Congressman makes statement on January 20 and Khojaly tragedies  
(February 4, 2016)**

US Congressman from New Jersey Donald Payne has made a statement on January 20 and Khojaly tragedies. He said he would like to recognize January 20, 1990 as “Black January”, adding Soviet troops invaded the capital city of Baku and surrounding areas killing tens and injuring hundreds of civilians.

He also asked congressmen to join him in recognizing the horrific atrocities that took place during the month of February in Khojaly, Azerbaijan, 24 years ago. On that day, Payne said, more than 600 people, mostly elderly men, women and children, were brutally killed.

The Congressman also described Azerbaijan as a strong ally of the United States in a strategically important region of the world.

*Yusif Babanli*  
*Special Correspondent*  
*AZERTAC*

**Indonesian Parliament holds commemorative meeting on Khojaly Genocide anniversary  
(February 4, 2016)**

Azerbaijani Ambassador Tamerlan Qarayev has met with Chairman of the Indonesian People's Consultative Assembly Zulkifli Hasan in connection with the 24th anniversary of the Khojaly Genocide.

The meeting participants included incoming Indonesian Ambassador to Azerbaijan Husnan Bey Fananie, member of the Azerbaijani-Indonesian inter-parliamentary friendship group Linda Megawati and representatives of local media.

Ambassador Qarayev drew the audience's attention to the fact that "Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan still continues".

"Armenia disregards the UN Security Council resolutions and continues the occupation of Azerbaijan's internationally recognized territories. All cultural heritage sites in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan – mosques, historical monuments and cemeteries – were destroyed. This was reflected in the reports of international organizations and observers," he said.

The Ambassador gave detailed information about the atrocities the Armenian armed forces committed against the civilian population, especially women and children.

Chairman of the Indonesian People's Consultative Assembly Zulkifli Hasan said he could find no words to describe atrocities of the Armenians against the civilians, particularly children.

Incoming Indonesian Ambassador to Azerbaijan Husnan Bey Fananie gave additional information about the occupation of Karabakh.

Zulkifli Hasan expressed his willingness to visit Azerbaijan this year, saying he will publicly condemn Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan both when he visits Azerbaijan's parliament and gives a press conference. He said he will also openly reiterate Indonesia's "everlasting" support for Azerbaijan.

*Vugar Aghayev*  
*Special Correspondent*  
**AZERTAC**

**Strasbourg experiences memorable and moving evening dedicated to Khojaly victims  
(February 17, 2016)**

Multi-award-winning independent documentary *Endless Corridor* – a US/Lithuanian co-production – was shown at the Cinéma Odyssee, Strasbourg, which ranks amongst the most respected art cinemas in the Alsace region. The evening in this city – which is home to such institutions as the Council of Europe and the European Parliament – commemorated the victims of the Khojaly Massacre on 26 February 1992. This was the worst single atrocity of the Armenian–Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh and claimed the lives of 613 civilian victims in 1992. The death toll included 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people. The screening was organised within the Justice for Khojaly campaign.

Speaking before the audience of 150 diplomats, VIPs, press representatives and friends of Azerbaijan, Eliza Pieter, Director, Strasbourg Office, The European Azerbaijan Society (TEAS) explained: “TEAS is proud to organise these events within the framework of the Justice for Khojaly campaign, which is an international awareness campaign initiated by Mrs Leyla Aliyeva, Vice-President, Heydar Aliyev Foundation. The Justice for Khojaly international campaign was launched on 8 May 2008. The campaign’s rapid development is a measure of international support for the restoration of justice in the region. This support has been expressed at events in over 100 countries in Europe, America, Asia and Africa, and has come from individuals and international organisations, as well as states.

“The tragedies of today should not make us forget those of yesterday. The millions of refugees today should not make us forget the estimated one million Azerbaijanis who have waited to return to their land for more than 20 years.”

Ambassador Emin Eyyubov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Council of Europe, said: “The town of Khojaly no longer exists today, but the remembrance of the massacred victims survives. They are present in all our memories. We ask for an end to the impunity and injustice regarding the massacre, and that this type of tragedy will never be repeated. I hope that this screening of the film *Endless Corridor* will help all those here achieve a better understanding of the realities of the massacre.”

Lithuanian journalist Ricardas Lapaitis – whose return journey to Khojaly formed the basis of the film – vividly remembered his experiences, saying: “When I appeared in *Endless Corridor*, it charted my first return visit to Agdam in 23 years. That which I experienced there, as an eyewitness to the Khojaly Massacre, had completely changed my life. I saw a building filled with victims’ bodies; the body of a six-year-old girl; decapitated men. I cannot forget what I saw.

“At the time, when I filed my report, my editor expressed incredulity – saying that such a massacre was impossible. But I said that such a tragedy should never be allowed to happen again. When I returned to Agdam – which is partially occupied by Armenia – after so many years, I realised that this devastated place is the saddest town in the world. The most incredible aspect is that the Armenian–Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh is still ongoing. Armenia continues to occupy Azerbaijani territory. Snipers from the sides sit five metres apart. I remember all those who continue to suffer, due to this conflict. I was pleased with the result of this film, and it is an adequate memorial to the 613 people who are unable to see it for themselves.”

The commemoration concluded with a performance of the tone poem *Khojaly 613* by French composer Pierre Thilloy, played in the presence of the composer. Commissioned by TEAS, the work was shortlisted for the Victoires de la Musique Classique awards in 2013. It featured Azerbaijani violinist Sabina Rakcheyeva, the first Azerbaijani graduate from the Juilliard School in New York and Cultural Advisor, TEAS, alongside the Pandora String Quartet.

Previously having been Composer-in-Residence for the French Embassy in Azerbaijan, and Director-General of the Festival De Soie et de Feu (Silk and Fire Festival), Mr Thilloy has become aware of the ongoing impact of the Armenian occupation. Mr Thilloy stated in a recent interview: “Music – unlike the word – has never hurt anyone, and can touch us more profoundly. This is because it can express the unspeakable. It can even touch Western Europeans, who never took any interest in this war, which was not in their world view.”

Following its international premiere throughout 2015, *Endless Corridor* has received plaudits from critics across the world. It has received the Best Documentary and Best Director for a Documentary Prizes at the Tenerife International Film Festival in Madrid; the Best Documentary Editing Prize at the Milano International Filmmakers Festival; and in the prestigious US-based Accolade Global Film Competition, it achieved two awards – Best of Show in May 2015 and in January 2016 the Outstanding Achievement Award in the Accolade Humanitarian Awards 2015. It has also been screened on the pan-European Eurochannel, CNN Turk and TV 24 (Turkey) channels.

Despite the passing of four UN Security Council resolutions against the invasion, Armenia continues to occupy Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts to this day, accounting for nearly 20 per cent of Azerbaijani territory.

**AZERTAC**

**Khojaly March organized in London  
(February 22, 2016)**

**Azerbaijan Britain Students Network has organized a march in London to commemorate the 24th anniversary of Khojaly Genocide, which was committed by Armenia's armed forces against the Azerbaijani civilians in 1992, AzerTag reports.**

It started on Trafalgar Square in front of the National Gallery, and continued on Old Palace Yard, opposite the Houses of Parliament. The march involved Azerbaijani and foreign students studying at British universities.

Aimed at ensuring that Azerbaijan's voice of protest resonate throughout the Parliament Square, the UK and the rest of the world, the annual London Khojaly March has seen great success over the years.

**News.Az**

**Azerbaijani diaspora activists hold rally outside Armenian Embassy in Stockholm  
(February 20, 2016)**

**Azerbaijani diaspora activists have held a rally outside Armenia`s Embassy in Stockholm to commemorate the 24th anniversary of Khojaly Genocide, when the Armenian armed forces killed innocent Azerbaijani civilians.**

The rally aimed to condemn the genocide and increase the Swedish society`s awareness of it, AzerTag reports.

The diaspora activists urged the international community to recognize the genocide and make the perpetrators face the full force of the law.

**News.Az**

**Adjara P.S. newspaper publishes special edition on Khojaly massacre  
(February 22, 2016)**

A special edition has been published by Adjara P.S. newspaper on the 24th anniversary of Khojaly massacre.

The special edition covered the article by Consul General Rashad Ismayilov on perpetrators of the massacre.

The special edition highlights information about the book “Khojaly Witness of a war crime – Armenia in the Dock” published by The European Azerbaijan Society (TEAS) within the international “Justice for Khojaly” campaign initiated by Vice president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva.

The edition says that in just one night, the Armenian armed forces wiped the town of Khojaly off the face of the earth.

*Khatayi Azizov  
Special Correspondent*

**Representatives of Azerbaijani-Turkish Diasporas meet in Germany  
(February 22, 2016)**

A meeting of the representatives of the Azerbaijani and Turkish Diaspora Organizations has been held in Germany.

Azerbaijan`s Ambassador to Germany Farid Shahbazov, Head of Coordination Centre for Azerbaijanis in Germany Heydar Mirza, Head of Azerbaijan Students Network Asif Masimov, Head of Azerbaijani-Turkish in Germany Society Hakki Keskin attended the event.

Hakki Keskin called the youth studying in Germany to be more active in the local Turkish organizations.

Ambassador Parviz Shahbazov condemned the terror attacks perpetrated in Ankara and extended deepest condolences to the brotherly people of Turkey. The Ambassador highlighted the developing cooperation between the Azerbaijani and Turkish Diasporas. The Diplomat talked about the projects carried out by representatives of both Diaspora organizations and stressed the importance of further development of cooperation.

**AZERTAC**

**Victims of Khojaly Genocide commemorated in Malaysia  
(February 22, 2016)**

Azerbaijan`s Embassy in Kuala-Lumpur has organized a commemorative event on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the Khojaly Genocide at the University Putra Malaysia. The event brought together teaching staff and students of the university, as well as Azerbaijani students studying in the country.

The event started with a minute of silence for Khojaly Genocide victims.

The Embassy employees provided information on the aggressive policy of Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, occupied Azerbaijani territories and Khojaly Genocide.

Visitors were presented with books and journals in English and Malay languages on the Khojaly Genocide and Armenia`s aggression against Azerbaijan.

The event participants also watched a documentary on the Khojaly Genocide.

**Vugar Aghayev  
Special Correspondent**

**Jewish Journal publishes Azerbaijani Consul General's article on Khojaly massacre  
(February 22, 2016)**

The Jewish Journal has published an article by Azerbaijan's Consul General in Los Angeles Nasimi Aghayev concerning the Khojaly massacre, which was committed in Feb. 1992 by Armenia's armed forces against Azerbaijani civilians resulting in the killing of 613 persons, including around 300 children, women and elderly.

Published in Los Angeles, the Jewish Journal is one of the largest and most influential Jewish newspapers in the United States.

The Consul General writes: "The town of Khojaly in Azerbaijan's Karabakh region might sound unfamiliar to some. But Khojaly was the scene of one of the most horrific tragedies in modern European history." "The Khojaly massacre was an unabashed campaign of ethnic cleansing, in no uncertain terms," Aghayev notes.

Stressing that "this policy of ethnic cleansing and terror was even braggingly acknowledged by the very men in charge of it," the Consul General mentions specifically the current president of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan and defense minister Seyran Ohanian, who were in charge of Armenian troops committing this horrendous crime in Khojaly.

"Since 1992, Azerbaijan has worked hard... to make sure the perpetrators of these crimes, the mass murder of innocent people, were condemned. And the world has responded: countries from Mexico to Slovenia and from BosniaHerzegovina to Peru, as well as nineteen U.S. states, including Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Nebraska, New Mexico, Texas, Utah and others have all condemned the Khojaly massacre," Aghayev further writes.

Noting that the illegal occupation of Azerbaijan's lands "has not brought any benefits to Armenia – on the contrary, it has only weakened the country and significantly reduced its sovereignty and independence making it over-reliant on external help," the author highlights the tremendous transformation Azerbaijan has undergone since restoring its independence: "In a powerful contrast, Azerbaijan has become the region's largest economy, pursuing and succeeding with a truly independent foreign policy and promoting interfaith tolerance and harmony in a difficult neighborhood."

In conclusion, the Consul General calls on the U.S. Congress to condemn the Khojaly massacre: "Azerbaijan will continue its fight for justice for the Khojaly victims. And we would like to see the U.S. Congress join this struggle. A Congressional condemnation of the Khojaly massacre would be the first step in the right direction."

**Yusif Babanli**  
**Special Correspondent**

**Los Angeles Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith leaders pray for innocent victims of Khojaly massacre  
(February 23, 2016)**

The 24th anniversary of the Khojaly massacre was commemorated on February 21, 2016 in Los Angeles with a powerful, multi-faith event at the King Fahad Mosque, one of the largest mosques of Los Angeles.

The Khojaly massacre took place on Feb. 26, 1992, when Armenian armed forces attacked the town of Khojaly in Azerbaijan's Karabakh region and massacred 613 civilians, including some 300 children, women and elderly people. The Human Rights Watch called it the "largest massacre in the conflict".

Held jointly by the King Fahad Mosque, Pico Shul Synagogue and Azerbaijan's Consulate General, the commemoration was attended by faith leaders and members of the Los Angeles Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities, Consuls General, Honorary Consuls, FBI and LAPD representatives, elected officials, as well as members of various ethnic communities.

Opening the event, the Mosque's interfaith program director Mahomed Khan welcomed the guests and invited everyone to take a moment of silence in honor of the victims of the Khojaly tragedy. Then invocations were held by Muslim, Christian and Jewish religious leaders.

Speaking afterwards Rabbi Yonah Bookstein of the Pico Shul Synagogue and Bishop Juan Carlos Mendez of the Centro Cristiano Bet-El shared their opinions about the brutality of the Khojaly massacre, highlighting the importance for the humankind not letting such human cruelty happen again.

Then the floor was given to Azerbaijan's Consul General in Los Angeles Nasimi Aghayev. Thanking the faith leaders and guests for sharing Azerbaijani people's pain, the Consul General informed them about the illegal military occupation and total ethnic cleansing of Azerbaijan's lands by Armenia. The Consul General said that the perpetrators of this crime were still at large and even hailed as national heroes in Armenia. Speaking of efforts by Azerbaijan to educate the world community about this horrendous crime, Aghayev specifically mentioned the "Justice for Khojaly" campaign led by Ms Leyla Aliyeva. He noted that as a result of these efforts over 10 countries, as well as 20 U.S. states have recognized and condemned this massacre. Highlighting the recent proclamations/statements from Governors of Hawaii, Montana and Nebraska, the Consul General thanked them for honoring the innocent victims of Khojaly. The diplomat also noted that despite the huge damage inflicted by the illegal invasion, Azerbaijan has been able to stand up and undergo a tremendous transformation, becoming the region's leading country under President Ilham Aliyev. "Most importantly, Azerbaijan has become a unique place of interfaith tolerance, harmony and acceptance," he concluded expressing hope for the restoration of peace in the region.

Speaking afterwards, the survivor of the Khojaly massacre Anar Usubov shared his painful memories of that cold night. He noted that as a result of this massacre he not only lost dozens of his family members and relatives, but also his entire childhood and youth. Following the remarks, the attendees watched a video testimony by Mrs Durdane Aghayeva, another survivor of the massacre. In the video Mrs Aghayeva speaks about the torture and humiliation she had to undergo in the Armenian captivity, when she was just 20 years old. The video testimony was prepared by the Consulate General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles in 2015.

The memorial event ended with joint Muslim, Christian and Jewish prayer for the victims of the Khojaly massacre.

**Yusif Babanli  
Special Correspondent**

**Khojaly victims remembered in Argentina  
(February 23, 2016)**

An event commemorating the 24th anniversary of Khojaly Genocide has been held in Argentina.

Organized by the Azerbaijani Embassy and Azerbaijani Studies Department of the Institute of International Relations under the University of La Plata, the event was attended by the university's staff and students who participated in "What do I know about Azerbaijan?" essay competition.

Addressing the event, Rashad Aslanov, Charge D'affaires of the Embassy, provided an insight into the history of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the ongoing negotiations to solve the dispute.

The participants were informed about the act of genocide committed by Armenians in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly in 1992, work to achieve its international recognition, as well as "Justice for Khojaly" campaign initiated by Leyla Aliyeva, vice-president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

He highlighted the necessity of increasing the Argentine society's awareness of the truth about the Khojaly Genocide and the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

Paulo Botta, coordinating professor at the Azerbaijani Studies Department, said Azerbaijan is seeking a peaceful solution to the conflict though more than one million Azerbaijanis became refugees and IDPs.

**AZERTAC**

**TRT 1 broadcasts program about Khojaly Genocide  
(February 23, 2016)**

Turkish TRT 1 TV channel has today broadcast a program about the Justice for Khojaly international awareness campaign initiated by Leyla Aliyeva, vice-president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

The program provided an insight into the work done as part of the Justice for Khojaly campaign.

The program said the campaign is aimed at increasing the international community`s awareness of the Khojaly Genocide committed by the Armenian military forces on the night of 26 February 1992.

**AZERTAC**

**24th anniversary of Khojaly genocide commemorated in Turkey  
(February 24, 2016)**

A commemorating event on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide has been held in Izmir, Turkey.

The event organized by Izmir-Azerbaijan Fraternal and Cooperation Association was attended by the officials, intellectuals, scientists, cultural figures and youth.

The meeting featured a documentary on the Khojaly genocide.

Addressing the event, head of the Izmir-Azerbaijan Fraternal and Cooperation Association Asif Gurban, member of the Azerbaijan-Turkey Inter-parliamentary Friendship Group, MP Qanira Pashayeva, education advisor of the Azerbaijani Embassy in Turkey Najiba Nasibova, Director of the Ege University Turkish World Research Institute Professor Metin Ekici gave information about the Khojaly genocide, stressed the importance of increasing the activity of the young generation in conveying the historical truths to the world community.

Later, the meeting featured an exhibition of works of the talented young artist Gulnara Mukhtarova on Khojaly genocide and Karabakh.

The same day, another event on Khojaly genocide was held in Eskishehir.

**AZERTAC**

**US Azeris Network launches Khojaly awareness campaign  
(February 24, 2016)**

US Azeris Network (USAN) has for the ninth time launched the annual campaign to increase awareness of the American public of the Khojaly genocide.

In a statement addressed to the US congressmen, parliaments of states and legislators, the US State Department and American media, USAN describes the military crime committed in Khojaly by the Armenian armed forces with the help of the 366th motorized rifle regiment of the former USSR as one of the most horrific crimes in modern history.

The evidence presented by a number of foreign journalists including Hugh Pope, Thomas Goltz, Tom DeWaal, as well as human rights organizations such as Human Rights Watch attest to the atrocities committed against civilians in Khojaly, the statement says.

USAN also says that parliaments and governors of twenty US states have adopted proclamations recognizing the Khojaly massacre. The Azerbaijani people will always remember the day of terror against Azerbaijani civilians in Khojaly, as the Americans remember the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the statement says.

The statement also hails US-Azerbaijani joint fight against terrorism, saying Azerbaijan's contribution to peacekeeping missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo is of pivotal importance to both countries.

***Yusif Babanli***  
***Special Correspondent***

**Terror of Khojaly brought to UK Parliament  
(February 24, 2016)**

The multi-award-winning independent documentary *Endless Corridor* a US/Lithuanian co-production was screened in the Boothroyd Room of Portcullis House – part of the UK Parliament.

Organised by Bob Blackman MP, Chair, Azerbaijan All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG), and attended by Baroness O’Cathain and Lord Howarth, APPG members, this commemorated the victims of the Khojaly Massacre on 26 February 1992. This was the worst single atrocity of the Armenian–Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh that claimed the lives of 613 civilian victims in 1992. The death toll included 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people. The screening was organised within the Justice for Khojaly campaign.

Following its international premiere throughout 2015, *Endless Corridor* has received plaudits from critics across the world. It has received the Best Documentary and Best Director for a Documentary Prizes at the Tenerife International Film Festival in Madrid; the Best Documentary Editing Prize at the Milano International Filmmakers Festival; and in the prestigious US-based Accolade Global Film Competition, it achieved two awards – Best of Show in May 2015 and in January 2016 the Outstanding Achievement Award in the Accolade Humanitarian Awards 2015. It has also been screened on the pan-European Eurochannel, CNN Turk and TV 24 (Turkey) channels.

Speaking before the audience of 110 parliamentarians, journalists, humanitarians, friends of Azerbaijan and cinephiles, Lionel Zetter, Director, TEAS, said: “We are honoured to be organising this event under the auspices of Bob Blackman on behalf of the Justice for Khojaly campaign, which was founded in 2008 by Mrs Leyla Aliyeva. This has promoted this film and organised other Khojaly commemorative events in over 100 countries. Khojaly has come to symbolise the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh because it was an organised massacre of women and children. The events of Khojaly were in living memory and there were some survivors. During previous screenings of the film, I was honoured to meet Valeh Huseynov, whose painfully moving testimony of the way in which his wife was shot dead is heard in the film. He was brutally tortured, but he is still alive today.

“Currently, Nagorno-Karabakh and the seven surrounding regions are still occupied by Armenia, in direct defiance of four UN Security Council resolutions. This situation is not acceptable to Azerbaijan and any country around the world. If the rule of international law is flouted, it results in conflicts and civil war. Always – the women and children suffer. I hope tonight’s screening will act as a memorial to those who died on that night and that you will understand the pain that the surviving Azerbaijanis suffered.”

Mr Blackman explained: “*Endless Corridor* is harrowing viewing, that is undeniable, and there is no question that the massacre took place. During my visits to Azerbaijan, I have seen the work undertaken to accommodate the approximately one million IDPs and refugees who are the ongoing victims of the conflict. The biggest tragedy is that no-one has been brought to justice for the war crimes and crimes against humanity, committed against those who wanted to live peacefully in their homeland. I will be submitting an Early Day Motion (EDM) to Parliament this week to remember the victims. Every time I go to Azerbaijan, one question is raised – four UN Security Council resolutions have been passed against the Armenian occupation – but nothing happens. I wonder why this part of this world remains ignored and forgotten. In my view, as many people need to see this film as possible – particularly politicians. I will do all I can to ensure parliamentarians hear about the tragedy and continue to demand answers and action.”

Aleksandras Brokas, Director, *Endless Corridor*, explained: “Whenever I rewatch this film in different cities, I am aware that nearly 50 per cent of the people featured in the film have passed away. Young Günay’s experience of trauma caused her to become speechless and led to her death two weeks after the end of shooting. The most important aspect is that those featured in the film now know they are not alone in their pain and grief. We aimed to show how the innocent people were affected.” He went on to field a series of questions from the audience regarding the geopolitical background to the conflict.

Tahir Taghizadeh, Azerbaijani Ambassador to the UK, said: “Thank you to TEAS and the Justice for Khojaly campaign for organising this wonderful and frank evening. The audience tonight brought the most precious gift – that of their time, hearts and minds. We are currently discussing the development of confidence-building measures, but there is no confidence or trust between Azerbaijan and Armenia. There will be no trust until those responsible for Khojaly are brought to justice.”

**Bike race on Khojaly genocide held outside South Korean parliament  
(February 25, 2016)**

Azerbaijan`s Embassy to the Republic of Korea has organized a bike race outside the country`s parliament on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of Khojaly genocide.

Participants in the event included the embassy staffers, members of Azerbaijan-Korea Student Organization "Buta", as well as Korean and foreign students.

The event was aimed at increasing the awareness of the Korean public of the truth behind Khojaly Genocide which took place on Feb. 26, 1992, when Armenian armed forces attacked the town of Khojaly in Azerbaijan`s Karabakh region and massacred 613 civilians, including some 300 children, women and elderly people. The Human Rights Watch called it the "largest massacre in the conflict".

The participants of the event wore T-shirts printed with the images illustrating the massacre in Khojaly, and distributed printed material in Korean language among Seoul residents.

*Shahin Jafarov  
Special Correspondent*

**El Peruano newspaper writes about Khojaly genocide  
(February 25, 2016)**

Peru-based El Peruano newspaper has published an article headlined "Khojaly genocide".

Written by Mehdi Mammadov, Azerbaijan's chargé d'affaires in Peru, the article provides an insight into the history of genocide committed by Armenians on the night of February 26, 1992 in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly.

The article also presents the facts about the occupation of Azerbaijani lands by Armenia.

*Aygun Aliyeva  
Special Correspondent*

**AZERTAC and Turkish Center for Eurasian Strategic Studies hold joint conference in Istanbul  
(February 25, 2016)**

Istanbul bureau of Azerbaijan State News Agency (AZERTAC) in partnership with the Center for Eurasian Strategic Studies of Turkey (ASAM) held a joint conference on the 24th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide. The conference, which was held at the headquarters of ASAM under the patronage of the Consulate General of Azerbaijan in Istanbul, brought together political scientists, diplomats, representatives of non-governmental organizations and local media.

The conference participants viewed a photo exhibition and watched a documentary about the Khojaly genocide.

Speaking at the conference, senior official at ASAM, Colonel Eray Guçlüer shared his thoughts about the Khojaly massacre. Acting Consul General of Azerbaijan Esmira Huseynova spoke about the grave consequences of the Khojaly genocide, and provided an insight into Justice for Khojaly! international campaign initiated by Leyla Aliyeva, vice-president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

The conference also heard from Professor Akkan Suver, AZERTAC's special correspondent in Turkey and Saudi Arabia Sabir Shahtakhty, chairman of the Turkish-Azerbaijani Society in Istanbul Safar Garagoyunlu and others.

**AZERTAC**

**Khojaly rally held outside Italian parliament  
(February 25, 2016)**

A rally has been held outside the Italian parliament to commemorate the 24th anniversary of Khojaly genocide.

The rally participants included representatives of the Young Italian Researches Association on Azerbaijan and Caucasus (ASSAC), the European Association for cultural exchange between Italy and Azerbaijan (EURASIA), Azerbaijan-Italy Youth Association (AIYA), Azerbaijani Student Network (ASN) office in Rome, students and Azerbaijanis residing in the city.

The campaign aimed to increase awareness of the Italian society, parliamentarians, political circles, city residents and representatives of different nationalities living in Rome of Khojaly genocide, particularly the truth about the tragedy and the tortures committed by Armenians against innocent Azerbaijanis on that terrible night.

Brochures and booklets were distributed among Rome residents and tourists.

The rally participants signed a petition urging the Italian parliament and government to recognize Khojaly genocide.

*Magsud Dadashov  
Special Correspondent*

**Khojaly genocide victims remembered in China**  
**(February 25, 2016)**

The Azerbaijani Embassy in China hosted a commemorative event to mark the 24th anniversary of Khojaly tragedy.

The event was attended by representatives of the local society and Azerbaijanis living in China and started with a one-minute-silence in memory of the Khojaly victims.

Ambassador Latif Gandilov briefed the event participants on the history of the tragedy.

“The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on February 26, 1992. Some 613 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.”

The participants watched a documentary on the Khojaly massacre.

*Shahin Jafarov,*  
*Special correspondent*

**Artistic representations of the killing fields of Khojaly exhibited in UK Parliament  
(February 25, 2016)**

The horrific slaughter of the Khojaly Massacre was remembered in the UK Parliament through the medium of art with the presentation of the inaugural Khojaly Peace Prize. The evening showcased a range of artworks submitted by UK-based students and young artists, inspired by the challenge of harnessing the power of the image to promote peaceful resolution of the ongoing Armenian–Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh and other wars, together with stimulating international empathy with the plight of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). The competition and exhibition, organised within the Justice for Khojaly campaign, commemorated the victims of the Khojaly Massacre on 26 February 1992. This was the worst single atrocity of the Armenia–Azerbaijan conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh and claimed the lives of 613 civilian victims in 1992. The death toll included 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people.

Taking place in the Strangers’ Dining Room in the UK Parliament, the event was attended by around 150 UK Parliamentarians – including Lady Fiona Hodgson and David Arness MP – members of the Azerbaijani and Turkish diaspora, friends of Azerbaijan and art aficionados. The judging panel included Sabina Rakcheyeva, violinist and Arts and Cultural Advisor, TEAS, who was the first Azerbaijani graduate from the Juilliard School in New York and Bob Blackman MP, Chair, Azerbaijan All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG).

Bob Blackman MP said: “Today’s exhibition is taking place very close to the commemoration of the Khojaly Massacre that took place back in 1992. This was ignored by the world and sadly none of the perpetrators have been brought to justice. As we approach the anniversary, I am tabling an Early Day Motion (EDM) in Parliament recognising the anniversary. It requests the implementation of the four UN Security Council Resolutions against Armenia and that justice is sought.”

Also sitting on the judging panel was Lionel Zetter, Director, The European Azerbaijan Society (TEAS), who commented: “Bob Blackman has now visited Azerbaijan three times and has met many of the survivors of the Khojaly Massacre. We were blown away by the volume and quality of the entries for the art prize. Khojaly remains an event that is little-known worldwide. It took place during the dissolution of the Soviet Union, when there were many conflicts and border disputes, and Nagorno-Karabakh did not grab the attention of the world’s media. This competition was thrown open to anyone who was living or studying in the UK and was inspired by the tragic events of that night, sympathising with those who lost their lives and hoping that such events are not repeated.”

Mark Menzies MP, Vice-Chair, Azerbaijan APPG, remarked: “As someone who is a friend of Azerbaijan and a visitor to the country, I understand some of the problems and issues that it has to face, including the Khojaly Massacre. Today’s event focuses on some of these issues via the medium of art. I am delighted that so many art students from across the UK have participated.”

The third prize was awarded to South Korean art student Seungjo Jeong for his artwork *Interface*, where a drain cover represents the geopolitical, economic and diplomatic barriers inhibiting the movement of IDPs and refugees, and yellow leaf represents fragile human nature and the lives of those on the ‘contact line’.

Second place was awarded to Eileen Anderson for her piece *Birds of Paradise*. She was inspired by artworks created by IDPs and refugees around the world, laying them together and printing them on acetate. One of these was an artwork by a child who had drawn many brightly coloured birds, from which she appropriated her own title.

First place was given to Gordon Berger, which features a traditional Paisley-Buta design, Azerbaijani flats, flags and dances. It is a reminder of the importance and growing together, and seeks to remind viewers of the importance of recognising our commonality and shared humanity.

Despite the passing of four UN Security Council resolutions against the invasion, Armenia continues to occupy Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts to this day. Currently 20 per cent of Azerbaijani territory remains occupied, and one million refugees and IDPs are spread across Azerbaijan.

**Khojaly victims commemorated in Iran  
(February 25, 2016)**

The Azerbaijani Embassy in Iran hosted an event to commemorate the 24th anniversary of Khojaly tragedy.

The participants watched a documentary on the Khojaly massacre.

Ambassador Javanshir Akhundov briefed the event participants on the history of the tragedy.

“The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on February 26, 1992. Some 613 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown,” he said.

**AZERTAC**

**Endless Corridor documentary screened in Barcelona  
(February 26, 2016)**

The Endless Corridor documentary on the Khojaly genocide was demonstrated in Barcelona, Spain.

The event was co-organized by the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Spain and Azerbaijani Society in Barcelona at the “La casa Elizalde” Cultural Center.

Prior to the demonstration, Chargé d'Affaires of Azerbaijan to the country Hamid Zeynalov informed the attendees on the Khojaly genocide and the bloody results of Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan.

Catalan judge Santiago Vidal noted that the documentary was about the tragedy of humanity, and it should be named a “genocide”.

“Despite the position of all international organizations, as well as the UN resolutions, Azerbaijan’s territorial integrity has not been ensured yet,” he added.

*Aygun Aliyeva  
Special correspondent*

**Sweden-Azerbaijan Federation urges European Parliament to recognize Khojaly genocide  
(February 26, 2016)**

Sweden-Azerbaijan Federation has urged the European Parliament, Swedish parliament and Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom to recognize Khojaly genocide on the eve of its 24th anniversary.

In a statement, the federation highlights the details of the genocidal act committed by the Armenian armed forces against the civilians in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly on 26 February 1992. It describes the genocide as one of the most terrible pages in the history of Azerbaijan, expressing regret that despite all these facts the European Parliament has not yet recognized the genocide.

"The international conventions, international documents condemn and consider unacceptable Khojaly genocide and similar events. In accordance with the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Armenian government must face the full force of the international law," the statement says.

*Rauf Aliyev  
Special Correspondent*

**Khojaly victims commemorated in Belgrade  
(February 26, 2016)**

The Embassy of Azerbaijan in Serbia and Azerbaijan Cultural Center in Belgrade have co-organized a commemorative event marking the 24th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

The event brought together members of the Center, Serbia-Azerbaijan Trade Chamber, Azerbaijanis living and studying in Serbia and representatives of the country`s Muslim community.

Addressing the event, director of the Center Zarifa Alizade informed the attendees on the “Justice for Khojaly” International Awareness Campaign initiated by vice-president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva.

In his speech Azerbaijani Ambassador to the country Eldar Hasanov provided an insight into the history of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, as well as informed the participants about the act of genocide committed by Armenians in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly in 1992.

The attendees also watched a documentary prepared by the Azerbaijan Cultural Center dedicated to memories of Khojaly victims, and viewed photos reflecting the genocide.

**Magsud Dadashov**  
**Special correspondent**

**Khojaly victims remembered at the Cathédrale Saint-Louis des Invalides in Paris  
(February 26, 2016)**

On 25 February, a moving classical concert took place amidst the stunning 17th century classical surroundings of Cathédrale Saint-Louis des Invalides in Paris – the cathedral for the French armies – in commemoration of the victims of the Khojaly Massacre in 1992. This was the worst single atrocity of the Armenian–Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh that claimed the lives of 613 civilian victims in 1992, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people. The evening was attended by more than six hundred people, including Senator André Reichardt, President, France–Caucasus Group, French Senate; composer Pierre Thilloy; André Sadry, Secretary, National Association of the Families of the Martyrs of Oradour-sur-Glane, and many Ambassadors, including HE Anar Karimov, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Azerbaijan to UNESCO; HE Anguel Tcholakov, Bulgarian Ambassador to France; HE Homidjon Nazarov, Tajik Ambassador to France; HE Rasa Mikiclaité, Lithuanian Consulate; HE Calixte Madjoulba, Togolese Ambassador to France; HE Patricio Hales Dip, Chilean Ambassador to France; HE Jean-Paul Guevara Avila, Bolivian Ambassador to France; Adil Embarch, Councillor from the Moroccan Embassy to France, and HE Ali Ahani, Iranian Ambassador to France. The concert was organised by the Azerbaijani Embassy to France, the Paris branch of The European Azerbaijan Society (TEAS) Foundation, the Ulduz Association and the Association des Amis de l’Azerbaïdjan.

Elchin Amirbayov, Azerbaijani Ambassador to France, said: “Up to this day, this massacre sadly remains unknown by French society and constitutes the most terrible episode in the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The extent of this massacre is comparable with that in Oradour-sur-Glane during World War II, which has left indelible traces in the memories of our French friends. This massacre, which was intended to provoke panic amongst a fleeing population, was followed by a policy of ethnic cleansing, which saw almost a million Azerbaijanis forced to leave their historic territories, whilst Nagorno-Karabakh and the seven surrounding regions were occupied, accounting for around 20 per cent of their country.

“We must never let these innocent victims be forgotten! The Khojaly Massacre is engraved on the spirit of all Azerbaijanis. But, Khojaly is also a voice that must be heard across the world. This is due to the international Justice for Khojaly campaign that was launched on 8 May 2008 by Mrs Leyla Aliyeva, Vice-President, Heydar Aliyev Foundation. Thanks to this campaign, several countries around the world have recognised this act of barbarity. The event today fits perfectly within the structure of this campaign, with the principal objective of achieving the restoration of justice in the region.”

Marie-Laetitia Gourdin, Director, TEAS France, said: “I would like to thank our partner organisations, with whom we are associated this evening, under the communal banner of the international Justice for Khojaly campaign. It is an honour for TEAS to be represented at the prestigious Cathédrale St-Louis des Invalides to render homage, together, to the memory of the Khojaly Massacre victims.

“History is always the subject of debate and interpretation, and this evening’s commemoration is not intended to stir tensions, but to ensure that such atrocities are not repeated. The tragedies of today should not cause us to forget those of yesterday. The millions of refugees today must not make us forget the approximately one million Azerbaijanis who have been waiting for more than 20 years to regain their lands that are still occupied by Armenian troops.

“Tonight’s concert notably features a work by Pierre Thilloy that is particularly touching, commissioned by TEAS, and entitled Khojaly 613. This work pays homage to the soul of the victims of the massacre. As Pablo Casals, the famous Spanish cellist, orchestral leader and composer said: “Music hunts hatred for those who are without love. It gives peace to those who are without sleep, and consoles those who cry.”

She added: “Tonight’s concert aims at giving some closer to the victims. Justice and peace is the only path Azerbaijan and Armenia should take to eventually live in harmony as neighbours, as they did in the past.”

Mirvari Fataliyeva, General Secretary, Association des Amis de l’Azerbaïdjan, said: “The events of Khojaly date back to 1992 and leave a deep wound for all Azerbaijanis and all friends of our country. This gathering, commemorating this sad date, is also there to remind us of the horror of all massacres committed in the world. Last year, we joined TEAS and the Azerbaijani Embassy in France to organise the first screening of the independent documentary Endless Corridor in Paris, and in 2016 we are organising a panel discussion Khojaly – the truth about a massacre in the National Assembly. This date must not be forgotten, so we will continue to discuss it and will support the Justice for Khojaly campaign, launched a few years ago.”

L’Orchestre Lamoureux, under the baton of Azerbaijani conductor Ayyub Guliyev, performed the concert. This orchestra is well-versed in playing Azerbaijani classical repertoire, as the Artistic Director is

Administrative Department of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
P R E S I D E N T I A L   L I B R A R Y

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Pierre Thilloy, Director-General of the Festival De Soie et de Feu (Of Silk and Fire Festival) and former Composer-in-Residence for the French Embassy in Azerbaijan. It aptly began with the Funeral Ode by Gara Garayev in the arrangement by Mustafa Mehmandarov, and also included Azerbaijani works by Vasif Adigezalov and Fikret Amirov.

European pieces included the Dream of Mengele by the composer, clarinetist and writer Hélios Azoulay, a disturbing work inspired by the hideous, sadistic experiments of Josef Mengele on inmates of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp; and the Adagio for Strings by Samuel Barber, a poignant and emotional piece featuring a gently ascending and descending melody that is frequently performed at funerals.

The commemoration concluded with a performance of the tone poem Khojaly 613 by French composer Pierre Thilloy, played in the presence of the composer, featuring Azerbaijani violinist Sabina Rakcheyeva, the first Azerbaijani graduate from the Juilliard School in New York and Cultural Advisor, TEAS, and Hélios Azoulay on clarinet.

The evening was dedicated to the memory of the Khojaly victims and those Azerbaijanis who have one wish – to return home and live in peace with their neighbours.

**AZERTAC**

**Hurriyet Daily News issues article about Khojaly massacre  
(February 26, 2016)**

Turkish Hurriyet Daily News has published an article headlined “The commemoration of the 24th anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre” by President of the Marmara Group Foundation Akkan Suver.

The article says: “For the people of Azerbaijan, the months of January and February of each passing year have become a traumatic anniversary of bloody days and dark weeks.

This huge tragedy of the Khojaly Massacre which took place 24 years ago left its indelible mark on the dark chapters of humanity.

On Feb. 26, 1992, Armenian forces slaughtered 613 Turks, including 83 children, 106 women and more than 70 seniors, in Khojaly County, located in the district of Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan. As a consequence of the lack of foresight and fomentation of the administration of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and with full support of the 336th Mechanized Regiment of Soviets, the Armenians penetrated the Khojaly and practiced an unprecedented massacre there. Turks were exposed to inhumane practices regardless of their age or gender. It was proven that most of the victims had been burned to death and had their eyes carved out. Without a doubt it was not an ordinary act of murder.

Khojaly County, which was considered to possess one of the most strategic hills and positions with a commanding view, had been a crucial military target for Armenia. The county had been exposed to severe artillery fire for several months and besiegement by Armenian forces. The place was then disconnected from the outside world and enclaved entirely.

A ceasefire was achieved in 1994 however nothing resulted from the peace negotiations following this period.

At the time of the events, Western countries showed no remarkable signs of reaction against this massacre encountered in Khojaly. In the following years, upon separate decisions launched by the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly and the European Council registering officially the state of occupation of Armenians on the territories of Azerbaijan, a demand was voiced regarding the re-annexation of Karabakh to Azerbaijan. Yet the past 25 years showed that the detection and reality Armenia was supposed to comply with did not correspond to the must-be situation of today.

In a report published in 1993 by the Human Rights Watch, the massacre of Khojaly was categorized as the most comprehensive civil massacre since the invasion of Nagorno-Karabakh.

On the anniversary of that kind of transgression and massacre Azerbaijan was exposed to for many a year, we wish the world’s society will not further turn a blind eye to these unforgettable incidents.”

**AZERTAC**

**Khojaly victims remembered in Germany  
(February 27, 2016)**

Azerbaijani Student Network, the German Azerbaijani Coordination Council in Berlin and “Azerbaijan House” jointly organized a memorial evening and held a photo exhibition on the anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

Member of the Azerbaijani Parliament Fuad Muradov spoke about the history of Armenian occupation and highlighted the measures taken by Azerbaijan to deliver the truth of Armenian occupation to the world community. Counsellor of the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Germany Rizvan Nabiyev noted that, in order to reach the global awareness about Khojaly genocide, it is very important to do felicitous work with the native and international intellectuals and academic researchers.

Rufat Sattarov gave a presentation on “Religious symbolism in post-Soviet Azerbaijan, in the case of Khojaly genocide”.

The attendees participated in the opening ceremony of the photo exhibition on Khojaly genocide.

**AZERTAC**

**Turkmenistan commemorates victims of Khojaly massacre  
(February 27, 2016)**

Azerbaijan`s Embassy in Turkmenistan has held an event commemorating the 24th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy.

The event brought together employees of diplomatic corpus accredited in Turkmenistan, as well as public figures.

The event started with a one-minute-silence in memory of the Khojaly victims.

Azerbaijani Ambassador to Turkmenistan Hasan Zeynalov briefed the event participants on the Khojaly massacre which had been perpetrated by Armenian armed forces.

“The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on February 26, 1992. Some 613 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.”

The ambassador highlighted the events held in a number of countries within the “Justice for Khojaly” International Awareness Campaign initiated by Vice-president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva.

The event also featured the demonstration of books and photos, as well as CDs on the Khojaly massacre.

The participants also watched a documentary on the massacre.

**AZERTAC**

**Khojaly victims commemorated in Czech Republic  
(February 27, 2016)**

The tent on 24th anniversary of Khojaly massacre was installed in Prague, Czech Republic with the support of the Azerbaijani Student Network.

Azerbaijan's Ambassador to Czech Republic Farid Shafiyev briefed the participants on the Khojaly massacre which had been perpetrated by Armenian armed forces.

The event followed with a one-minute-silence in memory of the Khojaly victims.

The participants were distributed the books and photos, as well as CDs on the Khojaly massacre.

**AZERTAC**

**Belgium mourns victims of Khojaly massacre  
(February 27, 2016)**

An event commemorating the 24th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy has been held in Brussels, Belgium.

The event brought together employees of Azerbaijan`s Embassy to Belgium and the country`s representation in NATO, as well as officials of Azerbaijani-Belgian Friendship Society, members of Azerbaijani diaspora organizations.

Head of the Azerbaijani Mission to NATO, Ambassador Khazar Ibrahim briefed the event participants on the Khojaly massacre which had been perpetrated by Armenian armed forces.

The participants put flowers to a monument of 19th century Azerbaijani poet Khurshidbanu Natavan.

**AZERTAC**

**Khojaly realities highlighted in Ethiopia  
(February 27, 2016)**

Azerbaijan`s Embassy in Ethiopia has organized an event at the UN headquarters in Addis Ababa commemorating the 24th anniversary of Khojaly massacre.

The event brought together officials, ambassadors of foreign countries accredited in Addis Ababa, as well as employees of Azerbaijan`s Embassy, Ethiopian alumnus graduating Azerbaijani higher Schools and the media.

Azerbaijani Ambassador to Ethiopia Elman Abdullayev briefed the event participants on the Khojaly massacre which had been perpetrated by Armenian armed forces.

“The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on February 26, 1992. Some 613 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.”

The ambassador highlighted the events in a number of countries within the “Justice for Khojaly” International Awareness Campaign initiated by Vice-president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva.

The participants also watched a documentary on the massacre.

Professor of the Addis Ababa University Abera Degfi delivered a speech on Khojaly massacre.

The event was spotlight in Ethiopian media.

**AZERTAC**

**USAN organizes protest rally outside Armenian Embassy in Washington  
(February 27, 2016)**

U.S. Azeris Network (USAN) has organized a protest rally outside Armenian Embassy to commemorate the 24th anniversary of Khojaly genocide.

The protesters held posters highlighting the truth about the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and Khojaly genocide.

They urged the world community to condemn the aggressive policy of Armenia. Some of the protesters chanted slogans, including “Condemn Armenian terror!”, “Khojaly massacre must not be repeated!”, “Armenia is guilty of committing ethnic cleansing!”, “Shame on Armenia!”, “Armenia get out of Karabakh!”, “Murders of children!”, “Armenia is a vassal country!”.

The protesters also urged the Armenian government to recognize Khojaly genocide, and demanded that the Armenian armed forces immediately withdraw from Azerbaijan, free hostages and ensure the return of Azerbaijani refugees to their homelands.

*Yusif Babanli*  
*Special Correspondent*

**Khojaly victims commemorated in Spain**  
**(February 28, 2016)**

Azerbaijan`s embassy to Spain has organized a commemorative event on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide in Madrid and Barcelona.

A group of Azerbaijanis held peaceful rally at Sol square in Madrid (Puerta de Sol) to inform the population on the genocide.

In Barcelona, the Society of Azerbaijanis has organized a flashmob.

*Aygun Aliyeva*  
*Special correspondent*

**Al-Bayan highlights commemorative ceremony on Khojaly genocide  
(February 28, 2016)**

UAE Al-Bayan newspaper in its “Occupation” section has published an article highlighting the commemorative ceremony held in the country on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

The article says that the ceremony was organized by the Azerbaijani diaspora.

Highlighting the views of the Azerbaijani Ambassador to UAE Dashgin Shikarov on the Khojaly genocide, the article says that the occupation of the Azerbaijani territories by Armenians resulted with the Khojaly genocide.

*Asya Hajizade*  
*Special Correspondent*

**Anniversary of Khojali genocide marked in Canada  
(February 28, 2016)**

A campaign on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide within the "Justice for Khojaly" International Awareness Campaign was held in Toronto, Canada.

According to Azerbaijan`s embassy to Canada, the event organized outside the Ontario Parliament was attended by the Azerbaijanis living and studying in Toronto and Waterloo.

With Azerbaijani and Turkish flags in their hands, the rally attendees demanded an end to the occupation policy carried out by Armenia, and urged Canada`s local and federal MPs to recognize the Khojaly massacre.

**AZERTAC**

**Jewish News Service publishes article on Khojaly massacre  
(February 28, 2016)**

American “Jewish News Service” has issued an article headlined “the Holocaust and the Khojaly massacre through the eyes of contemporaries” by expert on the former Soviet Union and the Middle East as well as the head of International Society Projects Arye Gut.

The article says: “To mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day and remember another notorious event that would come nearly 50 years after the Holocaust, the Baku International Center for Multiculturalism and Baku Slavic University recently organized a high-level round table event titled, “The Holocaust and Khojaly Through the Eyes of Contemporaries.”

An event dedicated to the study and remembrance of the Holocaust held in Azerbaijan, a Muslim-majority nation? Azerbaijan is located at the crossroads of many cultures and has played a seminal role in many aspects and scenes of history, giving the country the responsibility to ensure that the past is recounted accurately. Hence, in Azerbaijan, past is prologue.

Azerbaijan, in antiquity as well as the present day, stands at the crossroads of the celebrated Silk Road and thus at the intersection of numerous civilizations. Given its key geographic importance and its resultant exposure to myriad religions, ethnicities, and cultures, Azerbaijan has a keen sense of history and today maintains a tradition of tolerance and pluralism. This tradition is applied to governance, from the presidency to municipal governments, to business, and to average citizens. It is an ethic that is literally knitted into the fabric of Azerbaijani society.

Azerbaijan has for millennia been a safe haven for a wide array of diverse peoples fleeing persecution and oppression, perhaps most notably, the Jews. Today, the close bilateral relations of Israel and Azerbaijan—owing much to the hundreds of thousands of Jewish Azerbaijanis who left during the dissolution of the Soviet Union, only to return to a free and prosperous Azerbaijan—provide an interreligious, geopolitical, and cultural map for how Jews and Muslims can and do act toward one another and how they can and do coexist.

The Middle East, Europe, and other parts of our world would be wise to take note of Jews and Muslims in Azerbaijan and of Israel-Azerbaijani relations.

During this auspicious International Holocaust Remembrance Day event, the Holocaust was discussed by scholars from around the world in the context of studying the proclivities of man and man’s ability to rationalize horror, such as the atrocities of the Nazis. The role of Azerbaijan as a haven for Jews escaping the Nazis was discussed in detail, but also discussed were the horrors to come, ones that befell Jewish and Muslim (and other) Azerbaijanis alike with the fall of the Soviet Union.

The names and geography of the towns and cities involved represent much more than a point on the map. In a historical sense, they have evolved into symbols of cruelty and inhumanity—Babi Yar, Lidice, Oradour, Khatyn.

In the early 1990s, for the Muslims, Christians, and Jews of Azerbaijan, another name was added to the list—Khojaly. The tragedy that transpired in the small Azerbaijani town of Khojaly was also a crime against humanity. Armenian armed forces, like the Nazis before them, committed unspeakable atrocities and barbaric acts. A total of 613 people were killed, 487 people were crippled, and 1,275 civilians—men, women, children, and the elderly—were captured, murdered, raped, and tortured in manners reminiscent of the Nazis. Most notably, the mass extermination of the civilian population of Khojaly was carried out for one reason—all were Azerbaijanis.

Unlike in the aftermath of World War II, the Nuremberg Trials, and the ongoing hunt for Nazis, the perpetrators of the extermination of Khojaly live freely in the modern-day Republic of Armenia. Many, even today, occupy high-level positions in government—Seyran Ohanyan, Serzh Sargsyan, and Robert Kocharyan, to name a few of the notables. Each participated in atrocities and like the Nazis, they must be brought before an international court to answer for their crimes. Like the Nazis, copious records exist attesting to their involvement and complicity. Unlike the Nazis, who were personally secretive about their crimes, several of these men gave interviews to the media lauding their criminal acts. Their reign, too, will end, as the Nazis did and as Armenia grows out of its warring infancy.

It is important to note that Khojaly did not happen in a vacuum. History will not forget the cruelty of a 20,000-strong Nazi Wehrmacht Armenian legion during WWII. Led by an Armenian nationalist commander called only “Dro,” they participated in death marches and the annihilation of thousands of Jews and others disliked by the Nazi regime.

Unlike modern-day Germany, which meticulously teaches its young people about the horrors that Nazi Germany committed, a profound blemish on the modern Armenian society as a whole is the cult of personality that exists today around Dro and others. In honor of him and others, coins are minted with their likenesses, monuments are erected, and films are produced about their lives and deeds, as if they are some sort of diabolical folk heroes. Austrian historian Erich Feigl has written that in December 1942, Dro visited Nazi leader Heinrich Himmler. “Dro had a practice and experience of killing without any compassion, and this strongly impressed Himmler,” Feigl wrote.

As was made clear during the aforementioned conference, we and our progeny must honor the memory of the victims of the Holocaust and subsequent atrocities like Khojaly. We must honor those like the Allied forces who fought and died to defeat Nazism. Further, we must not ignore contemporary anti-Semitism or Islamophobia and must act against it. This is a commitment not only to the Jewish people, but to all others who stand to suffer the same fate.

The international community remembers the Holocaust, yet rampant anti-Semitism and xenophobia exists throughout Europe. Yet in independent and secular Azerbaijan, where multiculturalism is a way of life, the pain of the Jewish people is taken upon with brotherly love by fellow Azerbaijanis. Jews have lived in Azerbaijan for 2,600 years, and I say this with pride: the Jews were never betrayed by the Azerbaijanis.”

**AZERTAC**

**Khojaly victims commemorated in Jordan  
(February 14, 2017)**

Azerbaijan`s Embassy hosted an event commemorating 25th anniversary of Khojaly victims.

The event brought together ambassadors of foreign countries accredited in Jordan, members of Azerbaijan-Jordan Friendship Society, the country`s alumnus studied in Azerbaijan, and the Media.

Addressing the event, Azerbaijan`s Ambassador to Jordan Sabir Agabayov said the Khojaly massacre perpetrated by the Armenian Armed Forces is the crime against the humanity.

“The Armenian military forces committed genocide in Khojaly on February 26, 1992. Some 613 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both. Additionally, 1,275 peaceful residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 remains unknown.”

The event featured a demonstration of documentary on Khojaly massacre.

**<http://azertag.az>**

**Australian senator addresses parliament on Khojaly tragedy  
(February 15, 2017)**

Senator for Western Australia, member of the Liberal Party of Australia Chris Back has made a speech on the Khojaly tragedy in the country's parliament, APA reported.

“In two weeks time the people of Azerbaijan will remember the 25th anniversary of what has been one of the more bloody events in their country's history, when more than 600 civilians, including women and children, were killed. The 1990s war, as we all came to expect, had catastrophic effects, which continue today. A ceasefire was brokered by Russia in 1994, and it is estimated now that the population of this region is 100,000 ethnic Armenians”, said the senator.

“We know that without successful mediation ceasefire violations and renewed tensions will continue to threaten to reignite a military conflict in this place, as it will in others, between these countries and in this particular case that will only serve to destabilise the Caucasus region”, said Chris Back.

Senator stated that the region of Nagorno-Karabakh is now controlled by Armenia, and obviously ethnic Azerbaijanis believe they should have the opportunity to reside in this place.

The Australian Senate is the upper house of the bicameral Parliament of Australia, the lower house being the House of Representatives. There are a total of 76 senators: 12 senators are elected from each of the six states.

On February 25-26, 1992, the Armenian armed forces, together with the 366th infantry regiment of Soviet troops, stationed in Khankendi, committed an act of genocide against the population of the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly. As many as 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old people were killed as a result of the massacre. Eight families were totally exterminated, 130 children lost one parent and 25 children lost both. A total of 487 civilians became disabled as a result of the onslaught. Some 1,275 innocent residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 people still remains unknown.

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict entered its modern phase when the Armenian SRR made territorial claims against the Azerbaijani SSR in 1988.

A fierce war broke out between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. As a result of the war, Armenian armed forces occupied some 20 percent of Azerbaijani territory which includes Nagorno-Karabakh and seven adjacent districts (Lachin, Kalbajar, Aghdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Gubadli and Zangilan), and over a million Azerbaijanis became refugees and internally displaced people.

The military operations finally came to an end when Azerbaijan and Armenia signed a ceasefire agreement in Bishkek in 1994.

Dealing with the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is the OSCE Minsk Group, which was created after the meeting of the CSCE (OSCE after the Budapest summit held in Dec.1994) Ministerial Council in Helsinki on 24 March 1992. The Group's members include Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, the United States, France, Italy, Germany, Turkey, Belarus, Finland and Sweden.

Besides, the OSCE Minsk Group has a co-chairmanship institution, comprised of Russian, the US and French co-chairs, which began operating in 1996.

Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 of the UN Security Council, which were passed in short intervals in 1993, and other resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly, PACE, OSCE, OIC, and other organizations require Armenia to unconditionally withdraw its troops from Nagorno-Karabakh.

**Italian internet sites publish article by Khojaly genocide witness  
(February 15, 2017)**

Italian "dailycases.it" and "caratteriliberi.eu" internet sites have published an article by Durdana Aghayeva, a witness of Khojaly genocide.

In her article headlined "Khojaly massacre: narration of a woman who survived and was reborn", Aghayeva says that unlike much-discussed genocides in Bosnia, Cambodia and Rwanda, Khojaly genocide, which is one of the gravest crimes against humanity, lacks proper recognition. She tells about dramatic and shocking events that she witnessed when Khojaly massacre was committed.

Aghayeva says she witnessed the killing of a two year old Azerbaijani child and his parents, and the bayoneting of pregnant women and old people.

She says she was captivated and tortured by Armenian militaries.

Aghayeva also highlighted her efforts to promote the international community`s awareness of Khojaly tragedy.

*Asiman Asadov*  
*Special Correspondent*

**<http://azertag.az>**

**OIC Secretary General commemorates Khojaly Massacre  
(February 15, 2017)**

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the commemoration of the massacre in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly, the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Dr. Yousef A. Al-Othaimen, has paid tribute to all those who lost their lives in the 1992 atrocity.

The Secretary General reiterated that the Khojaly incident was a result of the illegal occupation of Azerbaijani territory by Armenia. He referred to the resolutions adopted by previous sessions of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, which considered the actions perpetrated against civilian Azerbaijani population in the occupied Azerbaijani territories, as crimes against humanity. The Secretary General further reiterated the OIC's full support to the initiatives and efforts of the Republic of Azerbaijan to put an end to the occupation of its territories and to restore its territorial integrity.

**<http://www.oic-oci.org>**

**Azerbaijani religious communities to appeal to world parliaments over Khojaly genocide  
(February 18, 2017)**

25 have passed since Khojaly tragedy. I've seen killed kids, women and elderly people, said Allahshukur Pashazade, APA reports.

Chairman of the Caucasian Muslims Office SheikhuIslam Allahshukur Pashazade made the remarks at the meeting with students of International Multicultural Winter School from 16 countries on Feb.18.

He said the CMO would hold a conference on the tragedy on Feb.21. "Heads of religious communities will appeal to world parliaments over Khojaly genocide. You will get impression about the Khojaly genocide after reviewing photos and documents. I invite you to the conference to be held on Feb.21," he added.

**apa.az**

**Romanian “Evenimentul Zilei” newspaper publishes article on Khojaly genocide  
(February 21, 2017)**

Romanian “Evenimentul Zilei” newspaper has published an article by Chairman of Romania-Azerbaijan Friendship Society Dumitru Bala commemorating the 25th anniversary of Khojaly massacre.

The article says about 613 civilians mostly women and children were killed in the massacre, and a total of 1,000 people were disabled.

“Armenia still continue its aggressive policy against Azerbaijan. 20 per cent of the country’s territories were occupied by Armenian Armed Forces. International organizations adopted several statements and resolutions condemning occupation of Azerbaijan’s territories by Armenian Armed Forces,” according to the article.

**<http://azertag.az>**

**US Ambassador to Azerbaijan visits Khojaly genocide memorial in Goranboy  
(February 21, 2017)**

US Ambassador to Azerbaijan Robert Cekuta has visited a Khojaly genocide memorial in Goranboy district.

The ambassador also met with Goranboy Executive Authority Head Nizamaddin Guliyev to talk about local economic and social conditions.

Cekuta then travelled to the village of Goran where he donated books to a local library.

The US ambassador then met with IDPs from Khojaly in the village of Ashaghi Aghjakand where he also visited Khojaly resident Ramiz Nasirov's house.

**<http://azertag.az>**

**U.S. Congressman issues proclamation on Khojaly Massacre  
(February 21, 2017)**

On the eve of the 25th anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre, which was committed by Armenia's armed forces against the Azerbaijani civilians in 1992, U.S. Congressman Juan Vargas from California issued a proclamation, honoring the victims of the tragedy and condemning this atrocity.

Sent to the Consulate General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles, the proclamation reads: "On February 25-26, 1992, the people of Khojaly and the country of Azerbaijan were subjected to a massacre, resulting in the murder of innocent civilians. Over 600 human lives were lost, including women, children, and the elderly, with 1,200 more people taken hostage. This tragedy is regarded as "the largest massacre" in the region by international human rights organizations such as "Human Rights Watch". The massacre is a sobering reminder of the atrocities that can be inflicted in wartime and the ongoing need for tolerance and understanding among people."

Representing California's Imperial County and San Diego County in the U.S. Congress since 2013, Congressman Vargas is a member of the Democratic Party and serves on the House Financial Services Committee. Previously, he served in the California State Senate and State Assembly, as well as on the City Council of San Diego.



<http://azertag.az>

**Governor of U.S. State of Indiana issues a proclamation on Khojaly Massacre  
(February 22, 2017)**

The Governor of the U.S. State of Indiana, Eric J. Holcomb, signed a proclamation on the Khojaly Massacre, which was committed by Armenia's armed forces on February 25-26, 1992 against the Azerbaijani civilians.

The document, which was sent to Azerbaijan's Consulate General in Los Angeles, proclaims February 26 as the "Khojaly Remembrance Day" in the State of Indiana.

The proclamation reads: "On February 25 and 26, 1992, the population of the town of Khojaly in Azerbaijan was subjected to a massacre, resulting in the death of over 600 innocent civilians, including many children, women and elderly. The renowned international human rights organization "Human Rights Watch" called this tragedy "the largest massacre" in the region. This event in Khojaly is a sobering reminder of the terrible damage that can be inflicted in wartime and the enduring need for greater understanding, communication and tolerance among people the world over. Azerbaijanis living in the State of Indiana and around the globe observe February 26 every year as a Day of Remembrance honoring victims of the Khojaly massacre. February 26, 2017 marks the 25th anniversary of the Khojaly massacre. Azerbaijan's freedom, independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity is recognized and supported by the international community, including the United States of America and the United Nations."

In conclusion, Governor Holcomb proclaims February 26 as the "Khojaly Remembrance Day" and invites all citizens "to duly note this occasion".

This is the first proclamation by an Indiana Governor on the Khojaly Tragedy.



**Scottish Parliament passes resolution on Khojaly tragedy  
(February 22, 2017)**

The Scottish Parliament passed a resolution on Khojaly tragedy.

In early February, it was decided to give a political assessment to the Khojaly tragedy with the agreement of all political parties represented in the Parliament of Scotland and on the eve of 25th anniversary of Khojaly genocide text of the decision to grant political assessment to these events has been published on the website of the Parliament, APA reports quoting Milli Majlis.

Majority of the members of the Scottish Parliament provided support for the adoption of the resolution adding their names in the text of the draft resolution.

A copy of the resolution was submitted to the Azerbaijani delegation by leaders of the political groups represented in Scottish Parliament. Azerbaijani Ambassador to UK Tahir Tagizade, head of the working group on inter-parliamentary relations with the United Kingdom MP Javanshir Feyziyev, head of Azerbaijani community in Scotland Fuad Alakbarov and embassy staff were represented in the Azerbaijani delegation in the Scottish Parliament.

**apa.az**

**Photo exhibition commemorating Khojaly Genocide opens in Kazakhstan  
(February 23, 2017)**

23. A photo exhibition “For a world free of genocide” opened in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, on Feb.

Kazakh and Azerbaijani MPs as well as representatives of the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan, intelligentsia and media attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition organized by the Azerbaijani Embassy in Kazakhstan to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide, APA reported citing Kazinform.

According to Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kazakhstan Rashad Mamadov, the event is aimed at promoting peace and harmony in the world adding that it is important to remember history to prevent manifestations of aggression.

The exhibition hall is divided into four sections, dedicated to the acts of genocide in Cambodia (1975 - 1989), Rwanda (1984), Khojaly (1992) and the Holocaust (1941 - 1945).

On February 25-26, 1992, the Armenian armed forces, together with the 366th infantry regiment of Soviet troops, stationed in Khankendi, committed an act of genocide against the population of the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly. As many as 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old people were killed as a result of the massacre. Eight families were totally exterminated, 130 children lost one parent and 25 children lost both. A total of 487 civilians became disabled as a result of the onslaught. Some 1,275 innocent residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 people still remains unknown.

**apa.az**

**Not Frozen, Never Forgotten – the plight of Azerbaijani IDPs highlighted in Brussels  
(February 23, 2017)**

After touring the world for the past four years, the outstanding exhibition Five Roads Back Home – showcasing the work of renowned German photographer Philipp Rathmer – finally came to Brussels, in the capital of the EU on 22 February. The images were displayed in the art nouveau-styled Art Thema Gallery, located near the stunning Grand Place, which has been a leading art space in Brussels for over three decades, The European Azerbaijan Society (TEAS) told APA.

They feature a cross-section of some of the estimated one million Azerbaijani internally displaced persons (IDPs). They are the ongoing victims of the Armenian–Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, and these impressive and emotionally charged images focus on their faces in stark closeup, set against a black background. The exhibition also served to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre, which took place on 26 February, claiming the lives of 613 Azerbaijani civilians. This was the worst single atrocity of this unresolved conflict.

Marc Verwilghen, Director, TEAS Benelux, commented: “I asked a lawyer, specialising in International Penal Law, for his advice. He concluded that judicial action against the perpetrators is possible with success, even before the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague.”

“The refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are still housed in camps across the country. In a nation of 9.7 million people, this amounts to one of the highest levels of displacement per capita in the world.”

“These are people with no voice, who are unable to return to their homes and lands because of the illegal occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding regions by Armenia’s armed forces – in defiance of four UN Security Council resolutions and of 22 years of OSCE Minsk Group negotiations. In defiance of all this... there is still no progress!”

Mr Rathmer explained his methodology: “Nagorno-Karabakh is one of the world’s forgotten conflicts. The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan developed into a war in 1992 that killed thousands of people. Now, 25 years on, the conflict is far from over. A ceasefire secures a fragile peace. These IDPs suffer the consequences to this day. In 2012, I visited some of the ordinary victims of this unresolved conflict in their camps. The people told me of their fate, their hopes and their fears – some very candidly, some with a certain reticence.” “These photos show one side of the conflict – the side that had to flee and give up their homes. They represent all those who are displaced in the world’s many wars. One aspiration was common to all – they wanted to take one of the five roads leading back to the occupied regions – one of the Five Roads Back Home.”

H.E. Fuad Isgandarov, Azerbaijani Ambassador to the EU, Belgium and Luxembourg, reflected: “Today we commemorate 25 years of the Khojaly tragedy. A tragedy that has changed too many things for all Azerbaijanis. It is regrettable to repeat again that the perpetrators of this atrocity are known and still not punished. We do believe that a peaceful solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is possible, however, we miss a clear engagement from the Armenian side.”

“I am very glad that the TEAS Benelux office is organising this unique exhibition in the heart of Europe, in Brussels, where all Europeans should learn about what happened in the Azerbaijani city of Khojaly 25 years ago. I also hope that all Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh refugees and IDPs will return back home soon, using one of the five roads that the photographer Philipp Rathmer shows in his work.” The evening concluded with a performance of contemplative music by pianist, composer and singer-songwriter Nezhin Efendiyeva, the granddaughter of Fikret Amirov, one of the foremost Azerbaijani composers, who often combined the microtones of mugham from the occupied Karabakh region with western classical music. She is also the great-granddaughter of Mashadi Jamil Amirov, a khanende (mugham singer) and tar player from Shusha, the cultural hub of Nagorno-Karabakh, who also composed the 1915 opera Seyfal mulk, amongst other works.

23–28 February 2017  
11:00–18:30  
Five Roads Back Home  
The Art Thema Gallery  
51 Rue de la Madeleine  
1000 Bruxelles  
Belgium

**Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues statement on 25th anniversary of Khojaly Genocide  
(February 23, 2017)**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan has released a statement on the 25th anniversary of Khojaly Genocide.

The statement reads: “February 26, 2017 marks the 25th anniversary of Khojaly Genocide. From October 1991, the town was entirely surrounded by the armed forces of Armenia. Over the night of the 25 to 26 February 1992, following massive artillery bombardment of Khojaly, the assault on the town began from various directions. As a result of which, the armed forces of Armenia, with the help of the infantry guards regiment No. 366 of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), implemented the seizure of Khojaly. Invaders destroyed Khojaly and with particular brutality implemented carnage over its peaceful population. As a result, 613 civilians were killed, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly. Another 1,000 people were wounded and 1,275 taken hostage. To this day, 150 people from Khojaly remain missing. The intentional slaughter of the civilians in Khojaly was directed at their mass extermination only because they were Azerbaijanis.

The mass killing, scalping, beheading, bayoneting of pregnant women and mutilation of bodies by the armed forces of Armenia in Khojaly are fundamentally well documented by the law enforcement agencies of the Republic of Azerbaijan, numerous independent sources, including Armenian ones, local and international media and eyewitnesses of this tragedy.

In his cynical admission of culpability, Armenia’s then-Defense Minister and current President, Serzh Sargsyan, was quoted by the British journalist Thomas de Waal, as saying, “before Khojaly, the Azerbaijanis thought that ... the Armenians were people who could not raise their hands against the civilian population. We were able to break that [stereotype]” (Thomas de Waal, *Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan through Peace and War* (New York and London, New York University Press, 2003), p. 172)).

The overall assessment of the causes and consequences of the war unleashed by Armenia against Azerbaijan makes it absolutely clear that the intentional slaughter of the civilians and defenders of Khojaly was not an isolated or sporadic act, but was part of Armenia’s widespread and systematic policy of notorious ethnic cleansing and practice of atrocities.

War crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide committed by Armenia in the course of the ongoing aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan constitute a serious violation of international humanitarian and human rights law, in particular the 1949 Geneva Conventions, Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

Alongside the Republic of Armenia’s responsibility as a State, under the international criminal law such acts perpetrated in the context of an armed conflict, including those in the town of Khojaly, are viewed as international criminal offences and responsibility for them is also borne on an individual basis by those who participated in the said acts, their accomplices and accessories.

In its judgment of 22 April 2010, the European Court of Human Rights arrived at an important conclusion with respect to the crime committed in Khojaly, qualifying the behaviour of those carrying out the incursion as “acts of particular gravity which may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity”.

The national legislative bodies of more than 15 States, as well as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation adopted a number of resolutions and declarations on condemning in strongest terms the massacre of civilian population in Khojaly and recognizing the tragedy of Khojaly as an act of genocide and crime against humanity.

The Republic of Azerbaijan highly values the solidarity of the international community on the establishment of truth and justice in respect to acts of genocide and crimes against humanity perpetrated in Khojaly by Armenia.

Khojaly Genocide should find its legal appraisal. The Republic of Azerbaijan is confident that the consistent measures being taken at the national level, as well as the existing international legal framework, will serve to end impunity and to bring to justice those responsible for the grave offences committed in the course of Armenia’s aggression against Azerbaijan.

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While remembering the 25th anniversary of Khojaly Genocide, the Republic of Azerbaijan calls upon the international community to condemn and recognize the crimes against humanity and act of genocide committed by Armenia in Khojaly against the civilian Azerbaijani population, including children, women and elderly.”

**<http://azertag.az>**

**Film on Khojaly Tragedy premieres at world-famous Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles  
(February 23, 2017)**

A documentary film highlighting the 1992 Khojaly Massacre has premiered at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, according to Azerbaijan's Consulate General in Los Angeles. This is the first documentary dedicated to the Khojaly Tragedy in the United States.

The Khojaly Massacre was committed by the armed forces of Armenia against the Azerbaijani civilians on February 26, 1992 in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. Called "the largest massacre in the conflict" between Armenia and Azerbaijan by the Human Rights Watch, the massacre resulted in the murder of 613 Azerbaijani civilians, including over 250 children, women and the elderly. In 2015, the European Court of Human Rights passed a ruling corroborating the facts of the massacre and naming its perpetrators.

Titled "Running from the Darkness", the documentary was filmed by Los Angeles filmmakers, led by a local organization J-Connect. The premiere screening was hosted at the Museum of Tolerance of the world-famous Simon Wiesenthal Center, which is one of the biggest (400,000 families) and most influential Jewish human rights organizations in the world. The Museum of Tolerance is one of the world's largest museums dedicated to Holocaust.

The screening was attended by mayors and councilmembers of various cities of the Los Angeles County, other elected officials, consuls general and honorary consuls of various countries, representatives of the U.S. Homeland Security Department, State Department and other federal and state government bodies, renowned faith leaders representing Christianity, Judaism, Islam and other religions, mass media, influential leaders of different ethnic communities (Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, Filipino, Macedonian, Pakistani, Hispanic, Jewish, Iranian, Turkish, etc.) of Los Angeles and others. Opening the event, Director of the Museum of Tolerance Dr. Liebe Geft said that despite many tragedies the people of Azerbaijan had to endure in its recent history, Azerbaijan has been able to maintain its centuries-old traditions of interfaith tolerance and multiculturalism.

Speaking afterwards, Consul General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles Nasimi Aghayev stressed the importance of holding onto the values of interfaith tolerance and harmony in the face of hatred and tragedy, what, in his words, Azerbaijan has been able to do during the last 25 years since the Khojaly Massacre. Describing the film as a story of survival of tolerance against intolerance and stressing the need to educate wider audiences about what happened in Khojaly in 1992 so that similar tragedies do not occur again, the Consul General thanked the filmmakers for masterfully capturing the whole story of this crime against humanity.

Presenting the film, the Board President of J-Connect Josh Kaplan said: "At J-Connect, our organization understands history and the importance of tolerance and cooperation. We react at a base level when we see innocent people and their communities destroyed simply because of their identities. When I learned about the massacre in Khojaly, I knew then that there was an important story that needed to be told. With the world in such turmoil we felt that a story of this complexity, of this emotion and passion was important for the world to hear about in an unbiased and thoughtful manner. We partnered with One Wish Project, a film company whose mission it is to capture powerful stories and

bring them to life... The fact that what happened in Khojaly is unknown to most was a huge motivating factor in creating this film. We live in a world that is committed to recognizing and preventing genocide, and yet without recognition and awareness of this tragedy, our world remains at great risk for another Khojaly..."

Then the film was screened. Based on interviews with many survivors of the Khojaly Massacre as well with U.S. elected officials, reporters, academic experts, Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith leaders of Los Angeles and an Armenian human rights advocate, the film vividly tells the horrific story of the tragedy. The documentary also highlights how Azerbaijan, confronted with Khojaly tragedy as well as the illegal occupation and ethnic cleansing of around 20% of its sovereign territory by neighboring Armenia in the early 1990s, did not allow the hatred and intolerance to take hold of itself, but on the contrary worked actively to strengthen its age-old identity and traditions of interfaith harmony and tolerance. Following the well-received screening, Consul General asked the renowned Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith leaders of Los Angeles, namely Bishop Juan Carlos Mendez, Rabbi Yonah Bookstein and Mahomed Khan, to pray for the victims of Khojaly as well as for peace and tolerance. The joint prayer in accordance with the traditions of all three Abrahamic religions was enthusiastically received by the audience.

At the event, the aforementioned faith leaders were presented with Interfaith Tolerance Awards established this year by the Consulate General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles, honoring the faith leaders'

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profound and long-standing engagement in promoting peace, tolerance and harmony among all religions. The event concluded with the performance of Azerbaijani and European classical music.

**<http://azertag.az>**

**Indonesian Parliament`s foreign affairs commission issues special statement on Khojaly genocide  
(February 23, 2017)**

The commission for foreign affairs of the Indonesian Parliament has issued a special statement on the 25th anniversary of Khojaly genocide.

The statement says that Indonesia urges Armenia to fulfill the UN Security Council resolutions demanding the immediate withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from Azerbaijan`s occupied territories.

“Indonesia, as a member of the international community, hopes for the best solution of the ongoing conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.”

**Vugar Aghayev**  
**Special correspondent**

**<http://azertag.az>**

**Khojaly victims remembered at University of Siena  
(February 23, 2017)**

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Khojaly genocide, the multi-award-winning independent documentary *Endless Corridor* was screened at the University of Siena, Italy. The screening was co-organized by the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Italy, the European Azerbaijan Society (TEAS) and Italy-Azerbaijan Youth Association as part of “Justice for Khojaly” campaign initiated by Vice-President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva.

The event brought together officials of Siena Mayor`s Office, researchers, public figures and students.

Addressing the event, First Secretary of the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Italy Erkin Heydarli highlighted the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and Khojaly genocide.

Other speakers at the event included teacher of the Sapienza University of Rome Daniel Pommier and professor of the University of Siena Alessandro Donato.

The “*Endless Corridor*” film was produced by Aleksandras Brokas (Lithuania) and the “Grammy Award” winner Gerald Rafshoon (US). British BAFTA award winning actor Jeremy Irons narrated the film.

Following its international premiere throughout 2015, *Endless Corridor* attracted plaudits from critics across the world. It has received the Best Documentary and Best Director for a Documentary Prizes at the Tenerife International Film Festival in Madrid; the Best Documentary Editing Prize at the Milano International Filmmakers Festival; and in the prestigious US-based Accolade Global Film Competition, it achieved two awards – Best of Show in May 2015 and in January 2016 the Outstanding Achievement Award in the Accolade Humanitarian Awards 2015.

*Asiman Asadov*  
*Special correspondent*  
<http://azertag.az>

**Khojaly 25 years on – an evocative musical remembrance in the centre of neutrality  
(February 23, 2017)**

Whereas February should be a month filled with the promise of spring, in Azerbaijan it is a month of sadness. This sadness is shared by all of those around the world who value human life and uphold the rule of international law. That is because, on the night of 25–26 February 1992, the worst atrocity committed by invading Armenian armed forces was undertaken in the town of Khojaly. Altogether, during that 24-hour period, 613 civilians died – including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people.

The event on 22 February was held in the centre of the Swiss capital Bern in the 150-year-old Bellevue Palace, amidst the stunning Bernese Alps.

It was organised within the Justice for Khojaly campaign, commemorating the victims of the Khojaly massacre, which occurred on 26 February 1992, The European Azerbaijan Society (TEAS) told APA.

The venue was the official guesthouse of the Swiss government, which remains the accommodation of choice for politicians, diplomats and celebrities alike.

Throughout this evocative and emotional evening filled with Azerbaijani music, the overwhelming sense was of loss and the umbilical connection with Khojaly, in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Many of the greatest Azerbaijani classical composers – all of whom combined the microtones of mugham with western classical music – were born or had familial connections to Nagorno-Karabakh. The father of Fikret Amirov was a khanende (mugham singer) from Shusha, Nagorno-Karabakh, and this was evident in his emotional Elegie, performed by the chamber ensemble Rhein-Quartett.

The octogenarian Azerbaijani composer Khayyam Mirzazade graduated from Azerbaijan State Conservatoire in 1957, where he studied under Gara Garayev and thereafter continued to teach. From 1969–83, he was a manager of composition cathedra at Azerbaijan State Conservatoire. The work performed in Bern was a setting of the plaintive traditional song Berzeni.

Enrique Granados – himself a victim of the First World War – was a Spanish pianist and composer of classical music in a uniquely Spanish style. Composed in 1890, Orientale is one of the 12 pieces comprising his Danzas Españolas (Spanish Dances), and was particularly sublime and evocative.

The concert went on with a particularly emotive Azad Bir Quşdum by Afrasiyab Badalbeyli.

The concert concluded with Pierre Thilloy's Khojaly 613, a tone poem representing the horrors of that fateful night. This harnessed the power of violin, clarinet and string quartet to evoke the sounds of marching, screams machine-gun fire and folk music themes to devastating effect, featuring Azerbaijani violinist Nazrin Rashidova, Latvian clarinettist Anna Gagane and the chamber music ensemble Rhein-Quartett. All audience members were given a CD of this outstanding contemporary work.

H.E. Akram Zeynalli, Azerbaijani Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein, informed the audience about the Justice for Khojaly campaign initiated by Mrs Leyla Aliyeva, Vice-President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. Partly as a result of this campaign, many parliaments in the world have already recognised the Khojaly massacre as a war crime, and the Ambassador urged Swiss parliamentarians to follow suit. He further commented: "Every year, in February, the Khojaly massacre reminds us that justice should prevail and that all those responsible should be brought to justice, and that peace should be established in this land."

Speaking before the audience of more than hundred politicians, VIPs and press representatives, Eliza Pieter, Head, TEAS Strasbourg office, explained: "This event tonight is designed to help us remember that man can be inhumane, and that war has terrible consequences – particularly for the civilians swept up in it. It also highlights the fact that the perpetrators of the massacre at Khojaly and in other places in the region are known. And it is designed to further the campaign to bring them to justice."

Before the musicians performed the piece Khojaly 613, its French composer, Pierre Thilloy, took to the stage and explained: "I am not a politician; I am not a diplomat. I am trying to express, through music, what cannot be expressed through words. I am hopeful that peace will come. Whilst writing this piece, I was like a bird flying over Khojaly on that fateful night, on 26 February 1992, recounting that tragic chapter through music.

"Justice demands that the four UN Security Council Resolutions instructing Armenia to withdraw its occupying forces should be implemented. Justice also demands that Armenia should be sanctioned for defying the UN Security Council resolutions, and for the occupation of its neighbour's territory."

**“Endless Corridor” film shown on Indonesian TV  
(February 24, 2017)**

“Endless Corridor” film was shown on Indonesian “TV9 Nusantara” Channel.

“Endless Corridor” is a film that came about because Richard Lapaitis, a Lithuanian journalist and witness of the horror of Khojaly, could not let the experience lie or forget the people who survived. He returned with a touching and human desire to find out how the survivors coped with memories of loved ones killed before their eyes. Russian journalist Victoria Ivleva was also reunited with Mehriban, a mother whose two-day-old baby she had saved in the chaos. The stories are of ordinary people whose lives were devastated by the Armenian invasion of their land.

The “Endless Corridor” film was produced by Aleksandras Brokas (Lithuania) and the “Grammy Award” winner Gerald Rafshoon (US). British BAFTA award winning actor Jeremy Irons narrated the film.

Following its international premiere throughout 2015, Endless Corridor attracted plaudits from critics across the world. It has received the Best Documentary and Best Director for a Documentary Prizes at the Tenerife International Film Festival in Madrid; the Best Documentary Editing Prize at the Milano International Filmmakers Festival; and in the prestigious US-based Accolade Global Film Competition, it achieved two awards – Best of Show in May 2015 and in January 2016 the Outstanding Achievement Award in the Accolade Humanitarian Awards 2015.

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**U.S. Azeris Network organizes protest rally outside Armenian Embassy in Washington  
(February 25, 2017)**

U.S. Azeris Network (USAN) has organized a protest rally outside the Embassy of Armenia in Washington to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

The rally brought together Azerbaijani and Turkish communities in Washington.

The protesters held posters highlighting the truth about the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and the Khojaly genocide. They chanted slogans such as “Condemn Armenian terror!”, “Khojaly massacre must not be repeated!”, “Armenia is to blame for ethnic cleansing!”, “Shame on Armenia!”, “Armenia out of Karabakh!”, “Murders of children!”, “Armenia is a vassal country!”.

The protesters urged the Armenian government to recognize the Khojaly genocide, and demanded that the Armenian armed forces immediately withdraw from Azerbaijan, free hostages and ensure the return of Azerbaijani refugees to their homelands.

They also urged Armenia to fulfill the four resolutions of the UN Security Council.

*Yusif Babanli*

*Special correspondent*

<http://azertag.az>

**Khojaly commemorative rally staged outside European Commission headquarters  
(February 25, 2017)**

A rally to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Khojaly genocide has been staged outside the headquarters of the European Commission in Brussels.

It was organized by the Centre of Cooperation of Turkic Speaking Countries in partnership with Belgium-Azerbaijan Friendship Society.

Addressing the rally, Chair of the Press Council, MP Aflatun Amashov said Khojaly genocide fully meets the articles of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. He stressed the necessity of speeding up efforts to put Khojaly genocide on the international media spotlight.

Section head at the Presidential Administration Gafar Aliyev highlighted what has been done to ensure international recognition of Khojaly genocide.

Chair of Belgium-Azerbaijan Friendship Society Ayhan Demirchi said Armenians committed several genocidal acts against Azerbaijanis on the Azerbaijani soil in the last hundred years.

Representatives of Azerbaijani and Turkish diasporas, students and local residents joined the rally.

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**AZERTAC, Azerbaijan-Ukraine International Alliance install Khojaly banner in Kiev center  
(February 25, 2017)**

Azerbaijan State News Agency (AZERTAC) and Azerbaijan-Ukraine International Alliance have installed a banner commemorating the 25th anniversary of Khojaly genocide in the Independence Square in the center of Kiev.

The banner depicts “Mother`s Cry” statue with the Azerbaijani flag in the background.

The Khojaly genocide was the killing of 163 Azerbaijani civilians, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 elders, from the town of Khojaly on 25–26 February 1992 by the Armenian armed forces. A total of 1,000 civilians became disabled in the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one and 25 lost both parents.

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**Khojaly commemorative rally staged in London  
(February 26, 2017)**

A rally to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Khojaly genocide has been staged in London.

The rally involved Azerbaijani and foreign students studying at British universities, who marched from the Trafalgar Square to the Parliament building.

The rally participants held posters highlighting the truth about the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and Khojaly genocide. They chanted slogans such as “Justice for Khojaly”, “We demand justice”, “We want peace”, “Karabakh has always been and will be Azerbaijan`s”.

*Orkhan Ismayilov*  
*Special Correspondent*

<http://azertag.az>

**Exhibition dedicated to Khojaly victims opens in Berlin  
(February 26, 2017)**

A landmark exhibition has opened at the Galerie Schultz – one of the most prestigious contemporary art galleries in Berlin – dedicated to the 613 civilian victims of the Khojaly Massacre.

This was the worst single atrocity of the Armenian–Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, and the death toll included 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people. The exhibition was organised by the Berlin office of The European Azerbaijan Society (TEAS).

The massacre took place 25 years ago on 26 February 1992. Currently, Armenia continues to occupy Nagorno-Karabakh and the seven surrounding districts, amounting to approximately 20 per cent of Azerbaijani sovereign territory, in defiance of four UN Security Council resolutions. Around one million Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain in camps for internally displaced persons, amounting to a humanitarian tragedy of macrocosmic proportions.

The exhibition saw the renowned Azerbaijani artist Ashraf Geibatov unveil his latest creations, all of which represent aspects of the Khojaly Massacre. He has been professionally active since 1981 and has exhibited far and wide, including the NATO Headquarters in Brussels; the Palais des Nations at the UN in Geneva; and the Vatican. He applies his art to the enhancement of international understanding, and is famous for capturing the soul of Azerbaijan. The eponymous gallerist Michael Schultz, host of

this exhibition, intersperses exhibitions by such famous artists as Andy Warhol and Gerhard Richter with supporting rising stars from the art scene, being known by the international cognoscenti as ‘Berlin’s best nose for young art.’

The event took place under the auspices of the Justice for Khojaly campaign. Speaking to 300 guests, including Ramin Hasanov, Azerbaijani Ambassador to Germany and leading political and media figures, Tale Heydarov, Chairman, TEAS, explained: “This event is organised within the Justice for Khojaly Campaign, an international awareness campaign initiated by Mrs Leyla Aliyeva, Vice-President, Heydar Aliyev Foundation. This campaign started in 2008 and has achieved a great deal of international support for the regaining of justice in this region. To date, it has organised events in over 100 countries in Europe, America, Asia and Africa. This year, TEAS is organising events in Athens, Bern, Brussels, London, Luxembourg, Paris, Prague, Sofia and Vilnius, in addition to tonight’s opening here in Berlin.”

Mr Heydarov continued: “It is an immense pleasure to welcome the audience, including Ramin Hasanov, Azerbaijani Ambassador to Germany; especially Professor Heintze and, of course Ashraf Geibatov, the artist, whose paintings have brought us together this evening. The interaction between a great artist like Mr Geibatov and such an internationally successful gallerist as Mr Schultz have resulted in an exhibition that embraces the humanitarian tragedy of the Khojaly Massacre which occurred 25 years ago, and sensitively draws attention to the destiny of the internally displaced persons whose lives continue to be impacted by the conflict and have one overwhelming wish – to return home.”

**<http://azertag.az>**

**The Jerusalem Post: 25 year after Khojaly genocide:  
the unforgettable facts between denial and historical justice  
(February 26, 2017)**

The Jerusalem Post newspaper has published an article commemorating the 25th anniversary of Khojaly genocide. Headlined “25 year after Khojaly genocide: 'the unforgettable facts between denial and historical justice’”, the article was authored by Said Musayev, a graduate of the University of Montesquieu Bordeaux IV in France, PhD candidate in Political Science, and Arye Gut, Head of the Baku International Multiculturalism Center in Israel, international relations expert.

The article reads: “The mass murder of Jews was coded by then German bureaucracy as the "final solution of the Jewish question". The European Jews were killed in the ghetto, concentration camps, during the "death marches" and as a result of mass executions.

During this auspicious International Holocaust Remembrance Day event January 28th 2017, the Holocaust was discussed by scholars from around the world in the context of studying the proclivities of man and man’s ability to rationalize horror, such as the atrocities of the Nazis. The role of Azerbaijan as a haven for Jews escaping the Nazis was discussed in detail, but also discussed were the horrors to come, ones that befell Jewish and Muslim (and other) Azerbaijanis alike with the fall of the Soviet Union.

The Holocaust is a tragedy of my people, a tragedy that has long been a taboo subject. That is why the bloody and barbaric act of genocide in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly is my personal pain, my personal tragedy.

What does the Holocaust and Khojaly have in common? Although very different, it is important to note that Israeli President Reuven "Ruvi" Rivlin touched upon the Khojaly in his speech to the UN General Assembly at the event dedicated to the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Today, the close bilateral relations of Israel and Azerbaijan—owing much to the hundreds of thousands of Jewish Azerbaijanis who left during the dissolution of the Soviet Union, only to return to a free and prosperous Azerbaijan—provide an inter-religious, geopolitical, and cultural map for how Jews and Muslims can and do act toward one another and how they can and do coexist.

The names and geography of the towns and cities involved represent much more than a point on the map. In a historical sense, they have evolved into symbols of cruelty and inhumanity—Babi Yar, Lidice, Oradour, Khatyn. In the early 1990s, for the Muslims, Christians, and Jews of Azerbaijan, another name was added to the list—Khojaly. The tragedy that transpired in the small Azerbaijani town of Khojaly was also a crime against humanity. Armenian armed forces, like the Nazis before them, committed unspeakable atrocities and barbaric acts.

Khojaly, a town in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, still occupied today by the now quasi-independent Armenia, was home to nearly 25,000 Azerbaijanis. On a February day in 1992, the roads from Khojaly to surrounding Azerbaijan were cut off and blockaded by Armenian forces and troops of the former USSR intent on the ethnic cleaning of the Azerbaijani population. The only option for the Khojaly population was to flee the town on foot, a treacherous journey.

On the eve of February 25, 1992 Armenian armed forces began the final takeover of the area. Khojaly residents were told that if they evacuated they would be granted safe passage – they were soon to discover that this was a horrific act of deception. As the entire town’s population began to flee Khojaly, Armenian armed forces and members of the No. 366 Soviet motorized rifle regiment confronted the townspeople with fierce gunfire. The terrified and unarmed population, including woman and children, were slaughtered.

As a result of the barbaric atrocities of the Armenian armed forces, 613 people were killed and 487 people were crippled. Eight families were exterminated, 25 children lost both parents, and 130 children lost one parent. Moreover, 1,275 innocent people were taken hostage, and the fate of 150 people remains unknown. Civilians were shot at close range, scalped, and burned alive. The elderly, children and women who were captured were subjected to unprecedented torture, abuse and humiliation...incidentally atrocities similar to that of ISIS today.

Khojaly act of genocide was not only directed against the Azerbaijani people. It is, directly, a crime against humanity.

The month of February of each year the wounds of the Azerbaijani people are renewed. Their wounds are renewed because of every victim had a story, a family, a childhood, a future cut short in this massacre which has been perpetrated by Armenians in their own homes. The moral losses of the victims and their relatives in

Azerbaijan will be doubled this year for the first reason of the 25th anniversary of the commemoration of the Khojaly genocide, the second for the impunity of the offenders of this crime.

Today the people installed in the administrative machinery of Armenia like Serj Sarkissyan (the current president, Seyran Ohanian (former defense minister), Robert Kocharian (former president) and dozens these types of government men attended directly in the extermination and ethnic cleansing of Azerbaijanis in the Mountainous Karabagh, occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The emergence of a new international legal doctrine, "crimes against humanity," intended as a vaccine against the recurrence of similar genocides by replacing impunity with institutionalized redistributive justice.

Israeli authors Amir and Arye Gut, in the search of truth in the feature-documentary novel "PAIN", have talked about the mass killings committed in an Azerbaijani town. The authors of the novel "PAIN" have unmasked terrorist leaders of the contemporary Armenia, based on the testimonies of citizens of Khojaly who have been living witnesses of this bloody killing.

The Israeli authors have pictured the sorrow and tragedy of the Azerbaijani people with great heart-ache. The authors have sent a message of warning to the world about the nasty intentions of the Armenian terrorists who are disseminating death and horror, who have destroyed tangible and cultural heritage of the Azerbaijani history, but could not destroy the pure and bright feelings of the sons of the Homeland, which inspires them for a great mission – to protect their historical lands.

With this demonstration we could make comparative analyzes between the Armenian nationalist dashnaksutyun party (the Armenian Revolutionary Federation) and the totalitarian populist party of Hitler in Nazi Germany. There were irrationality and racism, which constitute shared characteristics in the acts of the Armenian leaders of the dashnaksutyun party as these have committed by Hitler.

Regarding the Jewish genocide, a related aspect of the problem is the relationship between the German state apparatus and the Nazi party. The promulgation of the Nuremberg laws clearly illustrates the nature of this hatred behavior, in which the party desiderata were significant primarily in the administration of state affairs. The laws were drafted in Nuremberg, revised repeatedly by the intervention of Hitler and his party ideologues, and then announced by Hitler to the Reichstag in Berlin. After seizing power, the Nazis restructured the German state so that a hierarchy of party functionaries gained ultimate control of the main operations of the nation.

Said current Armenian President Serj Sargsyan to British journalist Thomas de Waal 25 years ago, "Before Khojaly, the Azerbaijanis thought that they were joking with us, they thought that the Armenians were people who could not raise their hand against the civilian population. We were able to break that stereotype."

It is impossible to imagine international acceptance of prominent Nazi war criminals, especially those, who bragged about their crimes as respectable politicians. Shouldn't the perpetrators of Khojaly be held to the same standard?"

<http://azertag.az>

**Azerbaijanis march in Seoul to commemorate Khojaly victims  
(February 27, 2017)**

BUTA Azerbaijan-Korea Student Organization and Azerbaijanis living in the Republic of Korea have marched in Gwanghwamun, Seoul, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Khojaly genocide. The march was organized as part of “Justice for Khojaly” campaign, which is an initiative of vice-president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva.

The marchers distributed booklets and other material among local residents. Nearly 100 commemorative placards were installed on the central street of Seoul, Itaewon.

Khojaly genocide was the killing of 163 Azerbaijani civilians, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 elders, from the town of Khojaly on 25–26 February 1992 by the Armenian armed forces. A total of 1,000 civilians became disabled in the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one and 25 lost both parents.

**<http://azertag.az>**

**Italian journalist highlights Khojaly realities  
(February 27, 2017)**

Italian L'Opinione newspaper has published an article headlined "We do not forget Khojaly genocide" by Domenico Letizia.

The Italian journalist highlights the history of the Armenian armed forces` killing of hundreds of Azerbaijani civilians in the town of Khojaly on Feb. 26, 1992. He provides the statistics of the consequences of the atrocities. "613 people were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old men. A total of 1,000 civilians were disabled during the genocide. Eight families were annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, and 25 lost both."

Letizia also hailed the establishment of Armenia-Azerbaijan Peace Platform during a conference which was held in Baku last November. He said the conference was attended by numerous human rights activists from Armenia and Azerbaijan. "Before the conference, the Armenian delegates apologized for Khojaly genocide committed by the Armenian armed forces in 1992, and also visited a genocide memorial in Baku."

**Asiman Asadov  
Special Correspondent**

**<http://azertag.az>**

**Khojaly awareness campaign held in Italian cities  
(February 27, 2017)**

The Azerbaijani-Italian Youth Association has organized an awareness campaign in the Italian cities of Rome, Milan, Pizza and Pavia to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Khojaly genocide.

The campaign involved Azerbaijani students who study in Italy and Azerbaijani diaspora activists. The campaign aimed to increase the Italian society`s awareness of Khojaly genocide and other crimes committed by Armenians against civil Azerbaijanis.

The campaign participants held posters with slogans such as “Justice for Khojaly” and “Khojaly genocide mustn’t be forgotten”. They urged Yerevan to end the policy of aggression against Azerbaijan, and demanded the punishment of those responsible for Khojaly atrocity.

**Asiman Asadov  
Special Correspondent**

**<http://azertag.az>**

**25 years of Khojaly tragedy commemorated in Aberdeen Azerbaijan Society of Great Britain  
(February 28, 2017)**

A commemorative event dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide was held by the Aberdeen Azerbaijan Society functioning at the University of Aberdeen in the of Great Britain.

The event brought together members of Society, the Azerbaijanis residing and educating in this country and public figures.

A moment of silence was observed for the victims of Khojaly genocide.

Chairman of Society, student of the Aberdeen University Kanan Aliyev spoke of the Kohjaly massacre perpetrated by the Armenian Armed Forces, calling it the crime against the humanity. He reminded that Khojaly genocide is one of the most terrible and tragic pages of Azerbaijan history that took the lives of 613 civilians. The death toll included 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people. He reminded that upon the initiative of the national leader Heydar Aliyev the Azerbaijan government and Parliament took all possible steps to convey the truth about the Khojaly genocide and brutal actions, which were perpetrated by Armenian nationalists, to the international community.

Books and materials on the Khojaly massacre were distributed to participants of the event.

**<http://azertag.az>**

**Governor of U.S. State of Nevada signs document on Khojaly Tragedy  
(February 28, 2017)**

The Governor of the U.S. State of Nevada, Brian Sandoval, signed a document remembering the Khojaly Tragedy of Azerbaijan. The document was sent to Azerbaijan's Consulate General in Los Angeles, which also covers the State of Nevada.

The Khojaly Tragedy refers to the massacre committed by Armenia's army against Azerbaijani civilians on Feb. 25-26, 1992 fleeing the town of Khojaly in Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh region. The mass killing, called by the Human Rights Watch the "largest massacre in the conflict" between Armenia and Azerbaijan, resulted in the murder of over 600 Azerbaijani civilians, including around 250 children, women and the elderly.

Stating that this document is presented in honor of the Khojaly Remembrance Day and in memory of the victims of the Khojaly tragedy, the Governor says: "The State of Nevada joins you on this day of remembrance, and recognizes the need for understanding, communication and tolerance among people around the world."

This is the first official document signed by a Nevada Governor on the Khojaly Tragedy.



<http://azertag.az>

**Khojaly Tragedy victims commemorated in Prague  
(February 28, 2017)**

The month of February is always a sad one for Azerbaijan, and amongst those around the world who support the rule of law and the sanctity of human life. This is because, 25 years ago, that month saw the single worst atrocity of the Armenian–Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. The Khojaly Massacre took the lives of 613 civilians.

On 27 February, the multi-awardwinning independent documentary *Endless Corridor* – a US/Lithuanian co-production – was screened in the art nouveau-style Lucerna Cinema in Prague.

Opened 110 years ago, this is the leading ‘art cinema’ in the Czech capital and is located just steps away from Wenceslas Square – an area that was central to demonstrations against Nazi and Soviet domination, and particularly the Velvet Revolution of 1989 that culminated in the attainment of Czech independence.

The screening was organised within the Justice for Khojaly campaign and with the support of the Azerbaijani Embassy to the Czech Republic, The European Azerbaijan Society (TEAS) told APA.

*Endless Corridor* received praise from international critics after being screened internationally throughout 2015–16. After receiving the Best of Show Award from the prestigious Accolade Global Film Competition in the US, it was awarded the Best Documentary and Best Director for a Documentary Prizes at the Tenerife International Film Festival in Madrid; and the Best Documentary Editing Prize at the Milano International Filmmakers Festival. It has also been screened on the pan-European Eurochannel, Israeli Channel 1, CNN Turk, Turkish TV 24, London Live and Al-Jazeera channels.

Speaking before the audience of 170 parliamentarians, journalists, humanitarians, friends of Azerbaijan and cinephiles, Roman Huna, Head, TEAS Benelux, welcomed the attendees. H.E. Farid Shafiyev, Azerbaijani Ambassador to the Czech Republic, commented: “The Khojaly Massacre was the worst event in modern Azerbaijani history. Two days ago, fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces reignited in the region. The Khojaly Massacre does not belong to the past – and this violence reminds us that justice has not been done. We want to remind people in the Czech Republic that Azerbaijanis have suffered great losses.

“Speaking as someone who has roots in Karabakh, I can say that we want to return to our homeland and visit the graves of our ancestors, and to live in peace with our neighbours. I congratulate the journalist Ricardas Lapaitis, who had the courage to make this film amidst an international environment that can be hostile, or receptive to only one version of history.”

Vojtěch Filip, Vice-Speaker of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, stated: “Tonight we commemorate the Khojaly Massacre, one of the saddest occurrences during the Nagorno-Karabakh war. During the night of 25–26 February 1992, 613 civilians lost their lives, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people. We can and must not forget this atrocity. Unfortunately, Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are still unable to return to their homes and lands because of the illegal occupation of the Azerbaijani territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding regions by Armenia’s armed forces. Despite four UN Security Council Resolutions, there is still no progress.”

Lionel Zetter, Director, TEAS explained: “To commemorate the 25th anniversary of Khojaly, over the past week, TEAS has organised photographic exhibitions, concerts and documentary screenings like tonight in London, Paris, Berlin, Brussels, Bern, Geneva, Athens, Vilnius and right across Europe.

“Last night we were in Paris for a peace concert in a church. Very angry, aggressive Armenians besieged the church and unsuccessfully tried to stop the concert from going ahead. I am pleased to say that it was a great success. *Endless Corridor* really brings alive the events of that terrible night of 25–26 February 1992. I join Ambassador Shafiyev in paying tribute to Ricardas Lapaitis for his work and participating in the film, which brings the massacre to the attention of the world, and Europe in particular.”

Lithuanian journalist Ricardas Lapaitis – an eyewitness to the massacre, whose return journey to Khojaly is central the film – vividly recalled: “Today we commemorate 25 years since the massacre that happened in the town of Khojaly during the night of 25–26 February 1992 when Armenian military forces, with the support of the 366th Motor-Rifle Regiment of the Soviet Army, attacked the town of Khojaly in Nagorno-Karabakh.

“Armenia itself has confirmed its responsibility for perpetrating the events in Khojaly because the order to attack was faxed on 25 February at 20.50hrs. The Armenian Defence Ministry then confirmed that its forces were ready for combat in the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

“Undertaken by Armenian nationalists, this was the worst atrocity to be undertaken on former Soviet territory. All participants in this act of aggression against the civilians of Khojaly, including Serzh Sargsyan, the current Armenian President, are guilty.

“I hope that, one day, justice will be done and that those guilty of this massacre will stand trial before the jury of the International Criminal Court in The Hague.”

Despite the passing of four UN Security Council resolutions against the invasion, Armenia continues to occupy Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts to this day. Currently nearly 20 per cent of Azerbaijani territory remains occupied, and nearly one million refugees and IDPs remain spread across Azerbaijan. The evening was dedicated to the memory of the Khojaly victims and those Azerbaijanis who have only one wish – to return home to live in peace with their neighbours.

**www.apa.az**

**Khojaly massacre survivor addresses US Congress  
(February 28, 2017)**

Azerbaijani Center of Midwest America (ACMA) organized a special event in the US Congress to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Khojaly massacre.

Organized within the framework of the “Justice For Khojaly” international awareness campaign, the event was attended by congressional staff members, employees of the Azerbaijani Embassy in the US, representatives of the local community, the Azerbaijani and Turkish communities in the US, the Azerbaijani Embassy in the US told APA.

Addressing the keynote remarks at the event, Mehriban Mammadova, ACMA President, gave information about the Khojaly massacre and noted that this tragedy is forever etched on the memory of the Azerbaijani people.

Narmin Ibrahimova, a survivor of the Khojaly massacre and an Azerbaijani student in the US, shared with the participant her bitter memories in relation to the events of 25 years ago. She spoke about the sufferings underwent by hungry and thirsty Khojaly residents in forest at cold winter nights in order to escape the atrocities of the Armenian soldiers. The Azerbaijani survivor said that hundreds of civilians were brutally killed during the massacre, and these terrible events have left deep and unforgettable traces in her memory.

Azerbaijani Ambassador to the US Elin Suleymanov said in his speech that the commemoration of this tragedy is a reminder of how important it is to restore the peace in the region. He said that the people of Azerbaijan rightfully call for justice for this tragedy, noting that despite all this suffering and injustice Azerbaijan is looking to the future.

Democratic Congressman Henry Cuellar (Texas), a member of the working group on Azerbaijan, stressed the strategic importance of US-Azerbaijan relations, noting that he is ready to provide support to strengthening the partnership between the two countries. Congressman Cuellar, who called himself a friend of Azerbaijan, said that he shares the grief of our people on this painful day and will continue to stand by Azerbaijan.

It's now the second consecutive year that ACMA has organized a commemorative event in the US Congress for the Khojaly massacre. As part of the “Justice For Khojaly” campaign, a number of commemoration ceremonies have been held in Washington, New York City, Chicago, St. Louis, Boston, and Houston.

On February 25-26, 1992, Armenia's armed forces, together with the 366th infantry regiment of Soviet troops, stationed in Khankendi, committed an act of genocide against the population of the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly.

As many as 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old people were killed as a result of the massacre. A total of 1,000 civilians became disabled in the onslaught. Eight families were completely annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, while 25 lost both parents. Some 1,275 innocent residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 people (68 women, 26 children) still remains unknown.

**Tragedy of Khojaly comes to Wenceslas Square  
(March 1, 2017)**

The month of February is always a sad one for Azerbaijan, and amongst those around the world who support the rule of law and the sanctity of human life. This is because, 25 years ago, that month saw the single worst atrocity of the Armenian–Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. The Khojaly Massacre took the lives of 613 civilians.

On 27 February, the multi-award winning independent documentary *Endless Corridor* – a US/Lithuanian co-production – was screened in the art nouveau-style Lucerna Cinema in Prague. Opened 110 years ago, this is the leading ‘art cinema’ in the Czech capital and is located just steps away from Wenceslas Square – an area that was central to demonstrations against Nazi and Soviet domination, and particularly the Velvet Revolution of 1989 that culminated in the attainment of Czech independence. The screening was organised within the Justice for Khojaly campaign and with the support of the Azerbaijani Embassy to the Czech Republic.

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Speaking before the audience of 170 parliamentarians, journalists, humanitarians, friends of Azerbaijan and cinephiles, Roman Huna, Head, TEAS Benelux, welcomed the attendees. Farid Shafiyev, Azerbaijani Ambassador to the Czech Republic, commented: “The Khojaly Massacre was the worst event in modern Azerbaijani history. Two days ago, fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces reignited in the region. The Khojaly Massacre does not belong to the past – and this violence reminds us that justice has not been done. We want to remind people in the Czech Republic that Azerbaijanis have suffered great losses.

“Speaking as someone who has roots in Karabakh, I can say that we want to return to our homeland and visit the graves of our ancestors, and to live in peace with our neighbours. I congratulate the journalist Ricardas Lapaitis, who had the courage to make this film amidst an international environment that can be hostile, or receptive to only one version of history.”

Vojtech Filip, Vice-Speaker of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, stated: “Tonight we commemorate the Khojaly Massacre, one of the saddest occurrences during the Nagorno-Karabakh war. During the night of 25–26 February 1992, 613 civilians lost their lives, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people. We can and must not forget this atrocity. Unfortunately, Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are still unable to return to their homes and lands because of the illegal occupation of the Azerbaijani territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding regions by Armenia’s armed forces. Despite four UN Security Council Resolutions, there is still no progress.”

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Lithuanian journalist Ricardas Lapaitis – an eyewitness to the massacre, whose return journey to Khojaly is central the film – vividly recalled: “Today we commemorate 25 years since the massacre that happened in the town of Khojaly during the night of 25–26 February 1992 when Armenian military forces, with the support of the 366th Motor-Rifle Regiment of the Soviet Army, attacked the town of Khojaly in Nagorno-Karabakh.

“Armenia itself has confirmed its responsibility for perpetrating the events in Khojaly because the order to attack was faxed on 25 February at 20.50hrs. The Armenian Defence Ministry then confirmed that its forces were ready for combat in the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

“Undertaken by Armenian nationalists, this was the worst atrocity to be undertaken on former Soviet territory. All participants in this act of aggression against the civilians of Khojaly, including Serzh Sargsyan, the current Armenian President, are guilty.

“I hope that, one day, justice will be done and that those guilty of this massacre will stand trial before the jury of the International Criminal Court in The Hague.”

Despite the passing of four UN Security Council resolutions against the invasion, Armenia continues to occupy Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts to this day. Currently nearly 20 per cent of Azerbaijani territory remains occupied, and nearly one million refugees and IDPs remain spread across Azerbaijan. The evening was dedicated to the memory of the Khojaly victims and those Azerbaijanis who have only one wish – to return home to live in peace with their neighbours.

**<http://azertag.az>**

**Romanian Amos News highlights Khojaly genocide  
(February 20, 2018)**

Romanian news agency Amos News has published an article by AZERTAC's special correspondent Igbal Hajiyeu commemorating the 26th anniversary of Khojaly genocide.

The article highlights the policy of occupation and ethnic cleansing carried out by Armenia against Azerbaijan, as well as Khojaly genocide and its heavy consequences. Hajiyeu describes the Khojaly genocide as an inhuman act.

The article says that the Armenians' interest in Khojaly stemmed from the town's strategic location on the crossroads of Aghdam-Shusha, Asgaran-Khankandi highways, 10 km south-east from the town of Khankandi.

"Over the night from February 25 to 26, 1992, the Armenian armed forces committed a gruesome massacre against the peaceful Azerbaijanis in Khojaly assisted by the 366th Motorized Infantry Regiment of the former Soviet army. As a result of the genocide 613 Azerbaijanis were killed, including 106 women, 63 children, and 70 elderly. 487 people, including 76 children were injured. In addition, 1,275 people were captured, with fate of 150 still unknown," Hajiyeu says.

The article emphasizes a vital role of national leader Heydar Aliyev in exposing the true nature of this monstrous genocide of Khojaly and conveying its realities to the world community.

"In February 1994, the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan gave Khojaly genocide a legal and political assessment. The perpetrators of this gruesome act of genocide must be held accountable and brought to the international trial," the article stresses.

<https://azertag.az>

**Recep Tayyip Erdogan:  
We will always remember human crimes committed against our brothers in Khojaly  
(20 February 2018)**

“We will never forget Khojaly Massacre... We will always remember the human crimes committed against our brothers in Khojaly,” said President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan as he addressed the Justice and Development (AK) Party's parliamentary group meeting.

“If there is someone who looks for a wild massacre in the world, then this massacre is in Khojaly,” said Erdogan.

Erdogan said that one of the biggest persecutions in the human history took place in Khojaly 26 years ago.

“Have you ever heard a country in the world which demanded or conducted sanctions against the perpetrators of Khojaly Massacre by mentioning the human rights,” said Erdogan.

The massacre of Feb. 25-26, 1992 is regarded as one of the bloodiest and most controversial incidents of the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan for control of the now-occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region.

On the heels of the Soviet Union's dissolution, Armenian forces took over the town of Khojaly in Karabakh on Feb. 26 after battering it with heavy artillery and tanks, assisted by an infantry regiment. When the massacre happened, the population of the town was more than 11,000.

The two-hour offensive killed 613 Azeri citizens, including 116 women and 63 children and critically injured 487 others, according to Azerbaijani figures. One hundred and fifty of the 1,275 Azerbaijanis that the Armenians captured during the massacre remain missing.

<https://azertag.az>

**Turkey opens Khojaly and Karabakh parks  
(February 20, 2018)**

Turkey's Aydin Province opened a park dedicated to Khojaly Tragedy and the Karabakh Park. Azerbaijani MP Ganira Pashayeva and Turkish MPs participated in the parks' opening ceremony.

On Feb. 25-26, 1992, the Armenian armed forces, together with the 366th infantry regiment of Soviet troops, stationed in Khankendi, committed an act of genocide against the population of the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly. As many as 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old people were killed in the massacre. Eight families were totally exterminated, 130 children lost one parent and 25 children lost both. Some 1,275 innocent residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 people still remains unknown.

<https://en.trend.az>

**Estonian MPs express condolences on occasion of 26th anniversary of Khojaly genocide  
(February 22, 2018)**

A group of Estonian MPs expressed condolences to the people of Azerbaijan on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy, said the message posted on the website of the Estonian parliament.

“We share the pain of the people of Azerbaijan caused by the Khojaly genocide, during which more than 600 innocent civilians, including many children, women and the elderly were murdered,” the message said.

“We strongly condemn the perpetrators and their criminal, inhumane acts committed against Azerbaijani civilians in the night of 25 to 26 February 1992 during the occupation of Khojaly, which are nothing short of a crime against humanity,” the message said. “The perpetrators of this genocide must be prosecuted.”

“We express our support for the efforts of the Republic of Azerbaijan aimed at restoring the country’s territorial integrity,” the message said. “A peaceful solution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is an important factor for the development of the entire region.”

On Feb. 25-26, 1992, the Armenian armed forces, together with the 366th infantry regiment of Soviet troops, stationed in Khankendi, committed an act of genocide against the population of the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly. As many as 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old people were killed in the massacre. Eight families were totally exterminated, 130 children lost one parent and 25 children lost both. Some 1,275 innocent residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 people still remains unknown.

The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. As a result of the ensuing war, in 1992 Armenian armed forces occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts.

The 1994 ceasefire agreement was followed by peace negotiations. Armenia has not yet implemented four UN Security Council resolutions on withdrawal of its armed forces from the Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding districts.

<https://en.trend.az>

**OIC: Khojaly massacre - result of illegal occupation of Azerbaijani territory by Armenia  
(February 22, 2018)**

The Khojaly massacre was a result of the illegal occupation of Azerbaijani territory by Armenia, said Dr Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen, the secretary general of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the OIC said in a message.

He made the remarks in his address on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the commemoration of the massacre in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly, and paid tribute to all those, who lost their lives in the 1992 atrocity.

The Secretary General referred to the Cairo Final Communiqué of the 12th Session of the Islamic Summit and resolutions adopted by previous sessions of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, which considered the actions perpetrated against civilian Azerbaijani population in the occupied Azerbaijani territories as war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

He further reiterated the OIC's full support to the initiatives and efforts of Azerbaijan to put an end to the occupation of its territories and to restore its territorial integrity.

On Feb. 25-26, 1992, the Armenian armed forces, together with the 366th infantry regiment of Soviet troops, stationed in Khankendi, committed an act of genocide against the population of the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly. As many as 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old people were killed in the massacre. Eight families were totally exterminated, 130 children lost one parent and 25 children lost both. Some 1,275 innocent residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 people still remains unknown.

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<https://en.trend.az>

**Ankara hosts event dedicated to 26th anniversary of Khojaly genocide  
(February 22, 2018)**

An event dedicated to the 26th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide was held in Turkey's capital of Ankara.

The event was held by the Azerbaijani embassy in Turkey together with Ankara municipality.

Adviser to the Turkish president Yalcin Topcu, MP from the ruling Justice and Development Party Emrullah Isler and other officials delivered speeches at the event.

The speakers spoke about the atrocities committed by Armenians against Azerbaijani civilians in Azerbaijan's Khojaly town on Feb. 26, 1992.

On Feb. 25-26, 1992, the Armenian armed forces, together with the 366th infantry regiment of Soviet troops, stationed in Khankendi, committed an act of genocide against the population of the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly. As many as 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old people were killed in the massacre. Eight families were totally exterminated, 130 children lost one parent and 25 children lost both. Some 1,275 innocent residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 people still remains unknown.

The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. As a result of the ensuing war, in 1992 Armenian armed forces occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts.

The 1994 ceasefire agreement was followed by peace negotiations. Armenia has not yet implemented four UN Security Council resolutions on withdrawal of its armed forces from the Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding districts.

<https://en.trend.az>

**Khojaly tragedy - bleeding wound of Azerbaijan and Turkey  
(February 22, 2018)**

Khojaly tragedy is a bleeding wound of Azerbaijan and Turkey, Necdet Unuvar, head of the Turkey-Azerbaijan interparliamentary friendship group, said.

Unuvar made the remarks at a meeting with Azerbaijani MP Elman Mammadov in Ankara Feb. 22.

Unuvar stressed that the Khojaly tragedy will never be forgotten.

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**Flashmob dedicated to Khojaly tragedy held in Lithuania  
(February 23, 2018)**

Members of the Azerbaijani Youth Organization in Lithuania held a flashmob in the center of Vilnius dedicated to the Khojaly genocide, Azerbaijan's Embassy in Lithuania said in a message on Feb. 23.

The event was held with the support of the embassy upon a special permission of the Vilnius Town Hall in the crowded places and in front of the Town Hall.

Over 2,000 candles that burned all night on an area of 100 square meters formed #KHOJALY.

Along with Azerbaijani students receiving education in Vilnius and Kaunas universities, Lithuanian youth took an active part in the flashmob.

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**The Jerusalem Post: Act of genocide in Khojaly - When will the moment of justice come?  
(February 23, 2018)**

The Jerusalem Post has published an article by political analyst Arye Gut headlined “Act of genocide in Khojaly - When will the moment of justice come?”

“There are place names that mean much more than just a point on the map. These are the names of villages and towns, which have become a symbol of cruelty and brutality: Babi Yar, Lidice, Oradour, Khatyn, My Lai. In the early 90-ies of the last century one more name was added to this list - the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly.

Khojaly genocide committed with an incredible brutality was one of the worst tragedies of the XX century. Such bloodshed has no analogue in the history. Azerbaijani will forever remember the scenes of such a cruel and merciless tragedy. I think the world community should also know more about the misfortunes and cruelties that Armenian nationalists have committed under the peaceful Azerbaijani population in the occupied lands,” Gut says.

“What was the goal of the Armenians, choosing Khojaly as their targets? Besides the strategic objectives, they wanted to destroy Khojaly as a settlement that reflects the historical and cultural heritage of the city from ancient times to the modern period. This is a special culture now known as the Khojaly-Gadabay culture of the XVI century BC. Such funerary monuments as stone boxes, barrows and necropolis belonging to the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age, as well as such architectural monuments as round crypt (1356-1357 gg.) and mausoleum (XIV century) were discovered here. During the archaeological excavations there were found different decoration made of stone, bronze, bone, household items made of ceramics, and etc. There is the name of the Assyrian king Adadnerari inscribed on the one of the beads found in Khojaly (807-788 cc. BC). Armenian terrorists, through technology, destroyed all monuments of culture of the Khojaly cemetery, considered one of the ancient burial grounds. All of the monuments of the Khojali cemetery culture, which are considered to be one of the ancient tombs made using devices, have been destroyed during the Khojaly occupation. It is a vivid example of Armenian vandalism against world culture.”

“Khojaly, one of the ancient settlements of Azerbaijan, was ruined and burned down just in one night. This tragedy is a crime against humanity. This is a historical fact that the Armenian armed forces and mercenary units gave the quarter to no one in Khojaly, who had not managed to leave the city and its surroundings.

The storm of the city began with a two-hour artillery bombardment, which was conducted by tanks, armored vehicles and guns with the "Alazan" missiles, "Grad" and "Uragan" installations, military equipment of the 366th Motorized Rifle Regiment of the former Soviet Army. Khojaly was blocked from three sides; the fire broke out and burnt down almost the entire city. Many civilians were killed by shells in the first hours of the assault. After the start of the firing the Armenian fascists announced using the loudspeakers about the opening of the corridor for civilians to leave the city.

The military personnel of the Russian Army's 366th regiment took an active part in the storming of Khojaly. At first the press center of the CIS Joint Armed Forces denied this fact emphatically though. However on March 11, 1992 the newspaper "Red Star" confirmed the participation of the 366th regiment in the fighting, despite the commander's emphatic orders. The paratroopers checked a few soldiers before the evacuation of the regiment, and found large sums of money, including foreign currency," he says.

“Yuri Girenko, who served at the beginning of 1992 in the 97th separate engineering department, confirmed that the soldiers of the 366th regiment and mostly Armenians took part in the storming. The battalion commander, almost all officers and lieutenants were Armenians. The question arises: why did the namely Armenians appear to be in the Soviet battalion, which was located in the hot spot of confrontation between Armenians and Azerbaijanis? The answer is clear - it was planned and thought out in advance. And it must be taken into account that the battalion was well armed, and long before such attacks, from Azerbaijani villagers collected every weapon, including a hunting rifle. Let's return to the events, Armenians from this regiment, having gathered soldiers, as well as volunteers of other nations, began a bloody storming of Khojaly.

When Khojaly residents attempted to leave the city at 2am through the corridor which was from 100 to 300 meters in width, but they were raked with the submachine gun and machine-gun fire immediately. As a result of the Armenian armed forces' atrocities, 613 people were killed, 487 people were crippled, 1275 old men, children and women were captured and subjected to unprecedented tortures, insults and humiliation. The reason for this massacre of Khojaly civilian population was just that fact that they were Azerbaijanis. 150 people were killed at once by the eastern guard of the Khojaly city. The crowd panicked. The road turned into a snowy and bloody mess covered with bodies. One part of refugees managed to cross the river. They were soaked to the

skin and the temperature was below zero. They tried to hide in the nearby mountains, but most of them died from hypothermia by the morning. It was impossible to calculate the total number of frozen to death that night. Most of them are still considered to be "missing" according to the statistics reports.

Once all the Khojaly citizens had been slaughtered, imprisoned, or had fled the town, Armenian soldiers quickly took control of the region with the partial objective of obscuring the scale of the massacre. Azerbaijani helicopters attempted to pick up the bodies, but continually came under fire. Most of the dead were carried in vehicles, being transported by the truckload. However, the whereabouts of a further 150 victims remain unknown. The massacre at Khojaly by Armenia contravened international law and violated Geneva conventions and articles 2, 3, 5, 9, and 17 of the Declaration of Human Rights (adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1948)."

"The battered cars with wheels but without tires, piled high with rugs, pots and pans, rattled" - the American journalist Thomas Goltz wrote, - "choking with exhaust gases and bending under the weight of the mattresses and the iron beds, people were trying to overtake a tractor with trailers for transportation of cotton, inside of which there were grubby kids and quacking ducks sitting among the dumped in a pile clothes. Usually there were the men at the end of the column, who either rode the donkeys, or led the pulling carts mules. Barefoot shepherds were driving frightened sheep, cows and calves, who strove to get under the wheels of a passing truck, to the edge of the road."

"The leaving of the Azerbaijani refugees of their land was one of the most mass in Europe since the World War II. The Land of Fire and its people were at the entryway of hell. They were betrayed, cheated and abandoned..."

Khojaly was the next stage of the capture and ethnic cleansing of Azerbaijani territories, creating panic and fear of shocking brutality. This barbaric cruelty towards innocent children, women and old people has no explanation. This is not the tragedy of one generation, but also one of the worst crimes in the history of mankind!

Together with the representatives of the Israeli media, I met some times with the Khojaly survivors, who have captured by the Armenian armed forces. Believe me, they told terrible things about Armenian savagery that it is even shameful to write about it. They showed us signs of torture. Then I had meetings with individuals and they told what they were ashamed to tell openly to all the people and the media."

In the article, Gut also provides testimonies of eyewitnesses of Khojaly massacre

"Major Leonid Kravets, the helicopter pilot of Russian Air Forces: "I took the wounded people out from Stepanakert and returned them back through the Askeran gates\*. My eyes caught some bright spots on the ground. I got lower and then my flight engineer shouted: "Look, there are women and children." I noticed about two hundred dead, scattered around the slope, and the people with arms wandered among them. Then we flew over that area to pick up the corpses. A local police captain was there with us. He saw a four-year old son with his skull crushed, and went mad. The other child, we managed to pick up before they began shooting at us, had his head cut off. Everywhere I saw the mutilated bodies of women, children and the old people. Many of them were killed at close range while trying to flee, some had their faces mutilated."

"Elman Mamadov, the former Khojali mayor: "Khojaly was a small town of Nagorno-Karabakh until the mid-80's. By the early 90's population began to grow because of the Azerbaijani refugees from Armenia and Meskhetian Turks refugees from Uzbekistan. When the number of residents has reached 10 thousand, Khojaly became the second-largest city in Nagorno-Karabakh by the number of Azerbaijani citizens after Shusha."

Isai Svirsky, Honored Builder of Azerbaijan, citizen of Israel: "I am one of the builders of Khojaly. Peaceful and happy people lived here. They were very welcoming and they didn't have any national enmity. They raised their children, dreamt of a bright future, built houses, roads, schools, kindergartens and nurseries. I had never thought that something like that can ever happen there."

Ramin Hasanov, a refugee from Khojaly: "I've spent my childhood there, in Khankendi. We were going to the kindergarten together with the Russian and Armenian children, then to the school, we were friends with many children, playing different games together. I would have never thought that in a few years the Armenians would cut and kill us. It was so good to be together. Such a pity..."

Airan Aliyev, a refugee from Khojaly: "After the capture of our city Armenians set up a concentration camp in swine farm in the village Darzhaz. It was a camp of death. Captured people did not get food... sometimes in a few days we were given 50 grams of stale bread. They spit on the bread just in front of our eyes, and then they forced us to eat just like dogs."

Asiya Abdullayeva, a refugee from Armenia: "One part of the population of Khojaly are Azerbaijanis who have been banished from their native lands in Armenia. They fled from Armenia, from where they were

brutally expelled. And what about poor Meskhetian Turks, how many lands had they changed? Are they guilty of finding a new homeland? Are they guilty of being born in another faith and becoming a part of Azerbaijan?"

Dourdane Agayeva, cockpit communicator Khojaly: "I have no right to remain silent. I survived the captivity. What I've experienced, passed those who had fled from Khojaly through the forest and managed to escape. They saw the war, but did not see the Armenians. When the war started and Khojaly was blocked, when my brother fought in the trenches, I fought in the cockpit communicator. The whole our family fought. The shooting continued every night, and we had become accustomed to it, but this time it was particularly intense. Even the houses shook. At about eleventh thirty our neighbor, aunt Shargiya, with her daughter Irada said, that had shooting calmed down and we could go home. However, it turned out to be Armenians tactical trick to calm people down. They suddenly launched an offensive to capture the airfield. The door opened, and frightened neighbor Uncle Abdullah, whose family also was with us, appeared. "What are you going here? People are escaping through the forest!". When we came out of the basement, everything around was painted in bloody red: that was red tracer line. It was scary. We crawled to the forest.

While crawling through the forest I popped in a bag all the ammunition that I found, so that not to be empty-handed if we get to our people... We leaped when we could, and if the shooting was intensive, we crawled through the snow. At that moment a bullet hit me in the ankle. Now I could not run any more, crawling became difficult too. And what happened then... I do not remember. When awake, there was the blood all around the bushes and trees, bloodied shreds of clothes: people must have been stripping themselves on the run to make it easier to move... There was an uncountable number of corpses of the children and men all around me... I lost my conscious at night and woke up in the morning. We crawled to the place from where the Aghdam village Shelley was about ten minutes away walking on foot. I looked around.

There was fellow villager Valeh walking with his wife Saadet. They got married recently and Saadat was pregnant. I saw the bullet entering directly into her stomach, then a few bullets in different parts of the body. Valeh, punching himself in the head under the shooting, yelled, "Saadet! Saadet !!! " like a mad... Saadet was a year younger than me. She was 19 and Valeh was about three years elder. I crept closer and said, "Valeh, do not worry, she will recover," but he did not hear, and only repeated: "Saadat was killed, she's gone!" - and hit himself in the head in despair...

I began to look into different directions, but there was no mother, no brothers or grandmother. The bullets flew thick and fast. I crawled to the side into a pothole, which was dug up by trying to escape from death refugees. I began to look around, and at this moment I noticed my brother hidden in a small hole. He leaned against the slope. He was covered with blood and his face was smeared with dirt. The bullet hit him in the right side. Valeh was already unable to protect the body of his wife and crawled after me into the same rut. There was also Gamboi, a refugee from Khankendi. He was crawling in our direction with his 5-year old son. We located in the potholes in a row: my brother, I, Valeh, and then Gamboi and his son. Thus, we were captured by Armenians."

Malahat Huseynova, a resident of Khojaly: "By the victims' testimony the Armenian soldiers, there were enormous Syrians among them, took hostage my seven-year old daughter. She started going to studying at school only a week ago. They killed her just before my. Her mother's, eyes. In Karabakhh women were not afraid of death. They scared of becoming hostages, as those wild thugs abused girls and young women in a wicked cruel way, without fearing God. My other three children were lost. I was wounded and helpless. I was lying in bushes all night., till the Azeri guardsmen picked me up."

Suleyman Abbasov, a resident of Khojaly: "Nearly all of the men, who can hold a weapon, took the first hit of the enemy. But we were powerless against the armored vehicles. The most of the city's defenders were killed. The rest, including me, were retreating fighting back, but the forces were unequal. I still can not forget that terrible bloody scene. The bodies of women, children, old people were lying on the streets. The houses were burning all around. The wounded were moaning. We stopped to look around if there was anyone still alive. And we saw how the Armenians coming just behind us were shooting down wounded people, and APCs moved along the streets, crushing the bodies of dead and wounded."

The refugee Almas Khasiyeva: "I remember that humanitarian corridor. About thousand of my fellow countrymen, women and children were the object of looting of Armenian soldiers. The only thing we had was our lives and they deprived us of it in that "free corridor". They killed our children, grandchildren, shoot at us near the Nakhchivanik village. Everything was taken away from us, and even our motherland!"

The refugee Rimma Hatileva: "When I see my father, mother and relatives' slaughtered bodies in the newsreels of those years, my hatred has no limits. What are they guilty of? Where is the world justice??? So many years have passed, and nevertheless the murderers and perpetrators of the Khojaly massacre are not punished!!!

Today the people installed in the administrative management of Armenia like Serj Sarkissyan (the current president, Seyran Ohanian (former defense minister), Robert Kocharian (former president) and dozens these types of government men attended directly in the extermination and ethnic cleansing of Azerbaijanis in the Mountainous Karabagh, occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The emergence of a new international legal doctrine, "crimes against humanity," intended as a vaccine against the recurrence of similar genocides by replacing impunity with institutionalized redistributive justice.

The successors of Armenian fascists Dro and Nzhdeh are incumbent President Serzh Sargsyan and Minister Seyran Ohanyan, both of whom committed a bloody massacre in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly in late 20th century. There are a lot of materials and video documents as well as testimonies provided by witnesses of the tragedy, which confirm the participation of the above-mentioned high-ranking officials of the Republic of Armenia in Khojaly massacre. Unlike the Nazis who tried to hide their crimes, some of these individuals gave interviews to foreign media. In these interviews, they justified and boasted their barbarous criminal acts against Azerbaijanis in Khojaly. Serzh Sargsyan's words say it all: "Before Khojaly, the Azerbaijanis thought that the Armenians were people who could not raise their hand against the civilian population. We were able to break that stereotype.

The bloody act of genocide, which was committed with incredible brutality and barbarism in Khojaly, is one of the most horrible tragedies of the late 20th century. Cruel and merciless scenes of that massacre will always remain a never-healing scar in the hearts of Azerbaijanis.

This is a sorrow for innocent Azerbaijanis, who had their own stories, families, childhood, dreams and future, which was cut short as a result of this bloody massacre perpetrated by the Armenian armed forces. The relatives of the victims have one common pain: those who had committed this terrible crime against humanity have not been prosecuted by international court and have remained unpunished. Unlike the consequences of World War II, when the majority of the Nazis faced the international court at the Nuremberg trial, ideologists and executors of the mass slaughter of peaceful Azerbaijani citizens in Khojaly live freely in the modern Republic of Armenia."

<https://azertag.az>

**Film on Khojaly Genocide screened in California  
(February 23, 2018)**

A documentary film on the Khojaly genocide titled “Running from the Darkness” was screened at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego - the second largest city in the U.S. State of California - on February 21.

The screening was jointly held by Azerbaijan’s Los Angeles Consulate General and San Diego-Baku Friendship Association.

At the San Diego screening, Consul General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles Nasimi Aghayev highlighted the significance of holding onto the values of interfaith tolerance and harmony in the face of hatred and tragedy, what, in his words, Azerbaijan has been able to do during the last 26 years since the Khojaly Genocide. Describing the film as a story of survival of tolerance against intolerance and stressing the need to educate wider audiences about what happened in Khojaly in 1992 so that similar tragedies do not occur again, the Consul General thanked the filmmakers for masterfully capturing the whole story of this crime against humanity.

Speaking on the event, Rev. Ian Riddel of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, Rabbi of the Temple Emanu-El Benjamin Fried, Director of the Islamic Center of San Diego Imam Taha Hassane, Executive Director of the San Diego-Baku Friendship Association Martin Kruming, as well as American journalist and author of the book titled “Murder in the Mountains: War Crime in Khojaly and the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict” Raoul Lowery Contreras stressed the importance of this unique multi-faith commemorative event. Speakers noted that against the odds of many tragedies it had to endure in the early years of its independence, Azerbaijan has been able to preserve and strengthen its identity and model of interfaith tolerance and multiculturalism.

Then the film was screened. Based on interviews with many survivors of the Khojaly Massacre, as well with U.S. elected officials, reporters, academic experts, Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith leaders of Los Angeles and an Armenian human rights advocate, the film vividly tells the horrific story of the tragedy. The documentary also highlights how Azerbaijan, confronted with Khojaly tragedy as well as the illegal occupation and ethnic cleansing of around 20 percent of its sovereign territory by neighboring Armenia in the early 1990s, did not allow the hatred and intolerance to take hold of itself, but on the contrary worked actively to strengthen its age-old identity and traditions of interfaith harmony and tolerance.

The well-received screening was concluded with prayers delivered by Imam Hassane and Rabbi Fried for the victims of Khojaly, as well as for peace, reconciliation and tolerance.

**<https://azertag.az>**

**Protest rally staged outside Armenian Embassy in Washington to commemorate Khojaly victims  
(February 25, 2018)**

The U.S. Azeris Network (USAN) has organized a protest rally outside the Armenian Embassy in Washington to commemorate the 26th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide. The rally involved the Azerbaijani communities living in Washington and nearby areas.

The protesters held posters highlighting the truth about the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and the Khojaly genocide. They chanted slogans such as “Condemn Armenian terror!”, “Khojaly massacre must not be repeated!”, “Armenia is to blame for ethnic cleansing!”, “Shame on Armenia!”, “Armenia get out of Karabakh!”, “Ohanyan and Sargsyan are criminals”.

The protesters urged to recognize the Khojaly genocide at the state level, and mentioned the recognition and condemnation of this tragedy by more than 20 states in the United States and a number of countries worldwide.

The protesters urged the Armenian government to recognize the Khojaly genocide, and demanded that the Armenian armed forces immediately withdraw from Azerbaijan, free hostages and ensure the return of Azerbaijani refugees to their homelands.

The Azerbaijani community members called on the Armenian government to recognize the mass killings of the peaceful Azerbaijani population living in other settlements of the Nagorno-Karabakh region, including Malibayli, Gushchular, Agdaban and Garadaghli.

The also urged Armenia to fulfill the four resolutions of the UN Security Council resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884.

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**Azerbaijan Friendship Park and Khojaly genocide memorial inaugurated in Istanbul  
(February 26, 2018)**

A ceremony has been held in Bagchilar, Istanbul, to open Azerbaijan Friendship Park and Khojaly genocide memorial.

Participants in the ceremony included the Azerbaijani President's Assistant for Public and Political Affairs Ali Hasanov, Azerbaijan's consul general in Istanbul Masim Hajiyev, Istanbul governor Vasip Sahin, chairman of Istanbul Buyuksehir Municipality Mevlut Uysal, chairman of Bagcilar municipality Lokman Cagrici and other officials, diplomats and MPs, Turkish public figures, scientists and culture figures, local residents, NGO and media representatives.

Ali Hasanov described Khojaly genocide as one of the gravest human tragedies of the 20th century. He described the creation of the park and erection of the memorial as Turkey's tribute to Azerbaijan's grief. "I am confident that this memorial will become a symbol of friendship and brotherhood and represent a profound importance to nations, peoples and civilizations."

Chairman of Istanbul Buyuksehir Municipality Mevlut Uysal and chairman of Bagcilar municipality Lokman Cagrici said Turkey considers Khojaly as its own tragedy. "It is our moral debt to demand justice for this genocide and try our best so that it is never forgotten," Cagrici said.

Officials then cut the ribbon symbolizing the inauguration of the park and memorial, and planted a tree here.

**Sabir Shahtakhti**  
**Special Correspondent**

<https://azertag.az>

**Turkish PM: Perpetrators of Khojaly massacre should answer before law  
(February 26, 2018)**

Perpetrators of the Khojaly tragedy should answer before the law, Turkey's Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said in a statement on the 26th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide, Turkish media reported Feb. 26.

Despite that 26 years pass since the Khojaly massacre, those who committed this bloody tragedy haven't yet answered before the law, he added.

Armenia's occupation policy has driven more than one million people out of their homes, he said.

"We strongly condemn the occupation of Azerbaijan's territories by Armenia and once again stress that we are always with Azerbaijan."

On Feb. 25-26, 1992, the Armenian armed forces, together with the 366th infantry regiment of Soviet troops, stationed in Khankendi, committed an act of genocide against the population of the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly. As many as 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old people were killed in the massacre. Eight families were totally exterminated, 130 children lost one parent and 25 children lost both. Some 1,275 innocent residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 people still remains unknown.

The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. As a result of the ensuing war, in 1992 Armenian armed forces occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts.

The 1994 ceasefire agreement was followed by peace negotiations. Armenia has not yet implemented four UN Security Council resolutions on withdrawal of its armed forces from the Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding districts.

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**Turkey would always stand by Azerbaijan, says presidential spokesman  
(February 26, 2018)**

Turkish Presidential Spokesman İbrahim Kalın has remembered the victims of Khojaly Massacre, which took place in 1992 in Azerbaijan's now-occupied region of Karabakh during the war with Armenia, Turkish media reported.

On his Twitter account, Kalın wrote: "I commemorate our martyrs on the anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre, in which 613 of our innocent Azerbaijani brothers were slaughtered by the Armenian forces in Upper Karabakh in the evening of Feb. 25-26, 1992." In his tweet, Kalın added that Turkey would always stand by Azerbaijan.

On February 26, 1992, Armenian military committed an act of genocide against the 7,000 population of the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly.

As many as 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old people were killed as a result of the massacre. A total of 1,000 civilians became disabled in the onslaught. Eight families were completely annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, while 25 lost both parents. Some 1,275 innocent residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 people still remains unknown.

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**Victims of Khojaly genocide commemorated in US cities  
(February 26, 2018)**

Representatives of the Azerbaijani and Turkish communities in Chicago, Illinois organized a rally to commemorate the 26th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

The rally participants, who gathered in the Michigan Avenue, voiced the slogans “Justice for Khojaly”, “Do not forget Khojaly” and others, Azerbaijan’s Embassy in the United States said.

Turkey’s Consul General in Chicago Umut Acar also joined the rally.

Furthermore, the U.S. Azeris Network (USAN) has organized a protest rally outside the Armenian Embassy in Washington to commemorate the 26th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide. The rally involved the Azerbaijani communities living in Washington and nearby areas.

The protesters held posters highlighting the truth about the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and the Khojaly genocide. They chanted slogans such as “Condemn Armenian terror!”, “Khojaly massacre must not be repeated!”, “Armenia is to blame for ethnic cleansing!”, “Shame on Armenia!”, “Armenia get out of Karabakh!”, “Ohanyan and Sargsyan are criminals”.

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**Memory of Khojaly victims honored in Bosnia and Herzegovina  
(February 26, 2018)**

An event was organized in Bosnia and Herzegovina to commemorate the 26th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide, Chairman of the Bosnia and Herzegovina-Azerbaijan Friendship Society Nihad Kestendzic tweeted on Feb. 26.

"More than two decades ago, Azerbaijan and Bosnia witnessed a brutal aggression and genocide. In both cases perpetrators have been awarded and victims are still waiting for justice. We share your burden of sorrow, we understand," he said in his tweet.

The event participants visited a memorial to victims of Khojaly and Srebrenica genocides in the Friendship Park.

The event was attended by members of the Bosnia and Herzegovina-Azerbaijan Friendship Society, and Azerbaijanis living in the country.

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**One day world will accept truth about Khojaly - Turkish media  
(February 26, 2018)**

Turkish news agency TRT World twitted a video material regarding the 26th anniversary of the Feb. 26, 1992 massacre in Khojaly city of Azerbaijan.

The author of the material retold the history of Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the Khojaly tragedy, comparing it with other mass-murders of the modern history.

“No one has been held accountable for any murders. So, why hasn’t anyone heard of this?” the author asked.

The video referred to numerous attempts to highlight the tragedy in the western media and reasons for their failure.

“The massacre was soon forgotten. Many Western politicians and media outlets turned their attention to other conflicts. Azerbaijani media claims that mainstream media ignored it because of the strong political influence of Armenians in the West,” the author noted.

He underlined that although the UN passed resolutions against the Armenian occupation and the European Court of Human rights recognized the Khojaly massacre, no actions have ever been taken.

The video said that expelled Azerbaijanis still hope that one day the world will accept the truth about Khojaly.

“Will their call ever be answered?” concluded the author.

The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. As a result of the ensuing war, in 1992 Armenian armed forces occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts.

On Feb. 25-26, 1992, the Armenian armed forces, together with the 366th infantry regiment of Soviet troops, stationed in Khankendi, committed an act of genocide against the population of the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly. As many as 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old people were killed in the massacre. Eight families were totally exterminated, 130 children lost one parent and 25 children lost both. Some 1,275 innocent residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 people still remains unknown.

The 1994 ceasefire agreement was followed by peace negotiations. Armenia has not yet implemented four UN Security Council resolutions on withdrawal of its armed forces from the Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding districts.

<https://en.trend.az>

**Azerbaijani students hold rally on Khojaly genocide in Scotland  
(February 26, 2018)**

Azerbaijani students studying in Scotland held a rally on the 26th anniversary of Khojaly genocide in the center of Aberdeen city.

Azerbaijan's State Committee on Work with Diaspora told Trend that along with the Azerbaijani students, other Azerbaijanis living in the city also participated in the rally. The participants shouted different slogans by holding the Azerbaijani flag and placards about about the Khojaly genocide in their hands.

During the rally, brochures about the Khojaly genocide and Armenian aggression were distributed to local residents and guests.

They gave detailed information about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the consequences of the war, the problem of refugees and IDPs, as well as the painful destiny of Khojaly and its Azerbaijani inhabitants.

The rally ended with the reading of an appeal addressed to international organizations and states. The appeal calls for recognition of the Khojaly genocide and giving legal assessment and putting pressure on Armenia to end its aggressive policy.

The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. As a result of the ensuing war, in 1992 Armenian armed forces occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts.

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<https://en.trend.az>

**MP: Khojaly tragedy wouldn't have happened, if Turkey had its current might in 1992  
(February 26, 2018)**

If Turkey had its current power in 1992, the Khojaly tragedy would not have happened, Head of Turkey-Azerbaijan Interparliamentary Friendship Group Necdet Unuvar told Trend.

He said Armenians killed hundreds of innocent Azerbaijanis in 1992.

“Unfortunately, the West does not want to see the criminals guilty of committing the Khojaly tragedy,” he added.

On Feb. 25-26, 1992, the Armenian armed forces, together with the 366th infantry regiment of Soviet troops, stationed in Khankendi, committed an act of genocide against the population of the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly. As many as 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old people were killed in the massacre. Eight families were totally exterminated, 130 children lost one parent and 25 children lost both. Some 1,275 innocent residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 people still remains unknown.

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The 1994 ceasefire agreement was followed by peace negotiations. Armenia has not yet implemented four UN Security Council resolutions on withdrawal of its armed forces from the Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding districts.

<https://en.trend.az>

**Cairo hosts event on Khojaly genocide anniversary  
(February 26, 2018)**

A series of events was organized in Egypt by the Embassy of Azerbaijan and the Patriot union of diaspora organizations in connection with the 26th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide, the Embassy told Trend.

A commemorative event dedicated to the Khojaly genocide was held at the embassy in Cairo.

The event was attended by employees of the Embassy, Azerbaijanis living, studying and working in Cairo.

Addressing the event, Ambassador Tural Rzayev spoke about the genocide committed 26 years ago by Armenian militants and their patrons against the civilian population in Khojaly.

The first political assessment to the Khojaly genocide was given by national leader of the Azerbaijani people, Heydar Aliyev, he said.

Speaking about the existing dual standards in the world, the envoy stressed with regret that the criminals who committed the Khojaly genocide still remain unpunished.

Seymur Nasirov, head of the Azerbaijani diaspora in Egypt, advised the young people participating in the event to use the social networks more actively and to post materials about the important issues of the Azerbaijani people, including the Khojaly genocide.

He called for taking an active part in the “Justice for Khojaly” campaign initiated by Vice-President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva.

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The 1994 ceasefire agreement was followed by peace negotiations. Armenia has not yet implemented four UN Security Council resolutions on withdrawal of its armed forces from the Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding districts.

<https://en.trend.az>

**Khojaly genocide commemorated in Argentina  
(February 26, 2018)**

A commemorative event dedicated to the 26th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide was held at the Azerbaijani embassy in Argentina.

Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry told Trend the event was attended by representatives of public and political circles of Argentina, diplomatic missions accredited in the country, various youth and non-governmental organizations, scientific and academic circles and local media.

Participants of the event first observed a minute of silence to honor memory of the victims of the Khojaly genocide.

Addressing the event, Ambassador Rashad Aslanov gave information about the genocide act committed brutally by Armenian armed forces against civilians in Khojaly town.

He said that this is one of the most terrible tragedies of the 20th century.

Speaking about the "Justice for Khojaly" campaign being conducted at the initiative of Heydar Aliyev Foundation's Vice-President Leyla Aliyeva, the ambassador noted the importance of giving the political and legal assessment to this cruel massacre at the international level.

He also spoke about the occupation of 20 percent of Azerbaijani territories by Armenia, and that more than one million Azerbaijanis became refugees and IDPs, and resolutions were adopted by the UN Security Council, the UN General Assembly, the OSCE and other international organizations in connection with the conflict.

Later, a documentary film dedicated to the Khojaly genocide, "Running from the Darkness", was shown to the event's participants.

Addressing the event, researcher at the Institute for International Relations of the University of La Plata and Associate Professor of the Catholic University of Argentina Ariel Levaggi said that the tragedies such as the Khojaly genocide were committed against all humanity, not just one country, and that the world community should always be vigilant to prevent such incidents.

At the end of the event, the guests were provided with materials on the Khojaly genocide and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

<https://en.trend.az>

**Germany holds event dedicated to 26th anniversary of Khojaly genocide  
(February 26, 2018)**

Numerous events dedicated to the 26th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide are being held in Germany, the Azerbaijan's embassy to Germany told Trend.

According to the information, one of the events was held in Berlin on Feb. 24, 2018 jointly by the Ataturk Think Association, the Azerbaijani Science Workers' and Students' Union, the Azerbaijani House and the Turkey—Azerbaijan Union.

The event was opened by Ambassador Ramin Hasanov's speech, who spoke about the Armenian occupation of Azerbaijan's territories and deep scars the Khojaly genocide has left on Azerbaijani people's conscience.

He noted that the Azerbaijani government and the Heydar Aliyev Foundation are working on bringing the truth about Armenian violence to the world community.

The ambassador underlined the importance of the "Justice to Khojaly" campaign initiated by the Foundation's vice-president Leyla Aliyeva and its results.

Ramin Hasanov said that Azerbaijani and Turkish diasporas have to work together to remember the tragedy, bring it to the world community's attention and called representatives of the diasporas to be even more active in the future.

Turkish Consul to Berlin Muhammet Mustafa Celik said that the occupation of Azerbaijani territories and the expulsion of Azerbaijanis from their homeland are very concerning and it is very unfortunate that a number of states and media resources stay silent about the tragedy.

He mentioned the necessity of Turkish and Azerbaijani diasporas actively working together on informing the world community about the occupation.

Azerbaijan's MP Rovshan Rzayev, former German MP, currently chairman of Turkey—Azerbaijan Union Haqqi Keskin and Turkish historian Kemal Ari participated in interactive discussions afterwards.

The participants exchanged views on the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and reasons of the Khojaly genocide.

A short film about the Khojaly genocide was shown during the event.

Representatives of Azerbaijani and Turkish diaspora organizations, students educating in Germany and employees of the Azerbaijan's embassy to Germany also participated in the event.

<https://en.trend.az>

**Khojaly genocide victims commemorated in Australia  
(February 26, 2018)**

An event dedicated to the Khojaly genocide was held in Melbourne city of Australia.

Azerbaijan's Honorary Consulate in Australia told Trend that the event organized by the Consulate was attended by Azerbaijanis living in Melbourne, public figures, media representatives and residents of the city.

Participants of the event first observed a minute of silence to honor the memory of the victims of the Khojaly genocide.

During the speeches, it was noted that the Khojaly genocide is one of the most terrible tragedies of the 20th century and the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is a major threat to the region.

It was also noted that Armenian nationalists continue their dirty deeds and increase the tension on the line of contact, violate the ceasefire regime regularly.

The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. As a result of the ensuing war, in 1992 Armenian armed forces occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts.

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<https://en.trend.az>

**Turkey remembers 1992 Khojaly massacre  
(February 26, 2018)**

Turkey's Foreign Ministry on Monday remembered the 'Khojaly massacre', which happened in February 1992 when hundreds of Azerbaijani citizens including women and children were massacred and wounded by Armenian troops, Anadolu Agency reports.

In a written statement, the ministry said more than thousand people were taken hostages in Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh region.

"The fate of the missing people is still unknown today. This inhuman aggression against civilians was engraved in the memories of the international community and deeply wounded the common conscience," it said.

"Turkey commiserates deeply with her Azerbaijani brothers and sisters over this brutal attack and massacre which they suffered 26 years ago and shares their pain. We strongly condemn this massacre and the continuous occupation of the Azerbaijani territories by Armenia," the ministry added.

"We wish God's mercy upon those who lost their lives in this massacre and wish once again our most sincere condolences to our Azerbaijani brothers and sisters."

**<https://azertag.az>**

**Khojaly genocide commemorated in California  
(February 26, 2018)**

A commemorative event dedicated to the 26th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide was held at Monterey Peace and Justice Center in Monterey, California at the initiative of the Consulate General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles on February 26, 2018.

A documentary film, titled “Running from the Darkness” was also screened at the event.

Opening the event, former Monterey Council member Nancy Selfridge informed the attendees about the Khojaly massacre, one of the most brutal incidents of inhumane warfare to take place in modern times committed by Armenian armed forces against Azerbaijani civilians in February 1992.

She stressed the importance to educate wider audiences about what happened in Khojaly in 1992 so that similar tragedies do not occur again.

Speaking afterwards, student of the Naval Postgraduate School Emin Gurbanzada talked about Armenia’s military aggression against Azerbaijan and stated that many Azerbaijani civilians were killed and around 800 thousand people lost their homes as a result of the occupation. Despite the fact that the UN Security Council adopted four resolutions condemning this occupation, Armenia has not fulfilled them to this day.

Then the film “Running from the Darkness” was screened. Produced in 2015-2017 in Los Angeles by American filmmakers, “Running from the Darkness” premiered in February 2017 at the Museum of Tolerance of the world-famous Simon Wiesenthal Center, which is one of the biggest (400,000 families) and most influential Jewish human rights organizations in the world. The documentary was also screened at the prestigious Red Rock Film Festival in Cedar City, Utah in November 2017.

Based on interviews with many survivors of the Khojaly Massacre, as well with U.S. elected officials, reporters, academic experts, Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith leaders of Los Angeles and an Armenian human rights advocate, the film vividly tells the horrific story of the tragedy.

The documentary also highlights how Azerbaijan, confronted with Khojaly tragedy as well as the illegal occupation and ethnic cleansing of around 20% of its sovereign territory by neighboring Armenia in the early 1990s, did not allow the hatred and intolerance to take hold of itself, but on the contrary worked actively to strengthen its age-old identity and traditions of interfaith harmony and tolerance.

The film was received with much interest by the audience.

It should be noted that Monterey and the city of Lankaran in Azerbaijan have been enjoying sister city relationship since 2011.

<https://en.trend.az>

**Turkish Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) Chairman: Khojaly is our bleeding wounds, crying eyes  
(February 28, 2018)**

Khojaly is our bleeding wounds, crying eyes, said chairman of the Turkish Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) Devlet Bahçeli at the group meeting of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, accusing the international community of committing the Khojaly genocide and the international organizations that are indifferent to this tragedy.

Stressing the support of Turkey to Azerbaijan, Devlet Bahçeli said that, Khojaly genocide was committed in the eyes of the world. Khojaly is a Turkic land, it will remain Turkish territory until eternity. If the Netherlands is looking for a criminal, look at Khojaly, he added.

Devlet Bahçeli emphasized that Nagorno Karabakh and surrounding occupied Azerbaijani territories must be released immediately.

At the event, he also spoke off actual issues on the agenda, as well as the results of the operation of the "olive branch" in the Turkish Armed Forces against the terrorists in Afrin.

Remembering the memory of the tragedy victims on the 26th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide, Devlet Bahçeli wished patience and perseverance to the people of Azerbaijan.

**<https://azertag.az>**

**Khojaly genocide commemorated in Monterey, California  
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**Yusif Babanli**  
**Special correspondent**

**<https://azertag.az>**

**Armenian leader had hand in Khojaly massacre  
(February 28, 2018)**

The leader of Turkey's opposition Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) on Tuesday accused the president of Armenia of playing a role in a 1992 massacre of Azerbaijani citizens, according to Anadolu Agency.

Speaking to his party's lawmakers in parliament on Tuesday, Devlet Bahçeli said that Armenia should be held accountable for the Khojaly massacre.

"The real trouble is that the traitors who had a hand in the Khojaly massacre have taken on key positions in Armenia's political and state life," said Bahçeli.

"President Serzh Sargsyan is one of them," Bahçeli said referring to the Armenian leader, currently serving his second term.

In 1992, Sargsyan was chairman of a "defense" committee for the Nagorno-Karabakh, where the massacre took place.

Bahçeli called on the countries of the world to hear the cry of the victims of the Khojaly massacre.

Bahçeli also slammed a recent Dutch parliament motion recognizing the Armenian allegations that the events of 1915 were a "genocide".

Bahçeli said the motion was crude and lacked legal or moral meaning.

"Countries whose histories are stained by the slave trade cannot judge us," said Bahçeli.

From the 1600s to the 1800s, the Dutch transported some half a million Africans across the Atlantic.

"If the Netherlands are looking for a crime of genocide, they should look at the Khojaly massacre," he added.

<https://azertag.az>

**Ethiopian media informed about Khojaly massacre  
(February 22, 2019)**

Ethiopian journalists from leading media outlets like Fana TV, DW, EBC, Afro FM, Nahoo TV have been informed about the Khojaly genocide at the event held in the Azerbaijani Embassy commemorating the tragedy's 27th anniversary.

Speaking of the heavy consequences of the Khojaly tragedy, Azerbaijani Ambassador to Ethiopia Elman Abdullayev said the Khojaly massacre is one of the most grievous and tragic events of the 20th century. Azerbaijani diplomat shared the statistics of Azerbaijani citizens who had been killed, injured, and taken hostage during the tragic night of 25-26 February 1992.

The event participants watched videos related to the Khojaly genocide.

**Asya Hajizade,  
Special correspondent**

**Khojaly genocide commemorated in Washington  
(February 22, 2019)**

Khojaly commemoration concert has been organized in Woman's National Democratic Club in the Whittemore House in Washington. Organized on the 27th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide, the concert featured the performance of the Honoured artist of Azerbaijan, pianist Nargiz Aliyarova and young violinist Azar Damirov.

Participants in the event included ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic corps accredited in Washington, members of the general public, cultural figures and students, and Azerbaijanis living in Washington.

Addressing a ceremony prior to the concert, Azerbaijani Ambassador to the US Elin Suleymanov described the Khojaly genocide as the most tragic page of the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan.

Khojaly genocide, which was committed by the Armenians in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly on the night of 25-26 February 1992, is considered one of the gravest crimes against humanity in the late 20th century.

On the night of 25-26 February 1992, the Armenian armed forces surrounded Khojaly with tanks and armored carriers and infantry units. Armed with state-of-the-art weapons, the Armenians razed Khojaly to the ground. The town was destroyed and burned by military hardware, and its civilians were killed with extreme cruelty. Most of them were beheaded, had their eyes gouged out, skinned, and burned alive.

**Azerbaijani Embassy in Spain remembers Khojaly genocide victims  
(February 22, 2019)**

Azerbaijani Embassy in Spain has organized an event to commemorate the 27th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide. The ceremony was part of a series of events held under “Justice for Khojaly” International Awareness Campaign initiated by vice-president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva.

Heads and employees of the diplomatic corps accredited in Spain, state officials, local media, public representatives and Azerbaijani community members attended the event.

Addressing the commemoration, Azerbaijani Ambassador Anar Maharramov provided an insight into the Armenians’ massacre of innocent Azerbaijani citizens in the town of Khojaly on the night of 25-26 February, 1992. He said this crime was committed as part of the Armenian chauvinists’ long-lasting policy of aggression, ethnic cleansing and genocide against Azerbaijan. The ambassador mentioned that as the result of the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan twenty percent of Azerbaijani territories (Nagorno-Karabakh and seven adjacent regions) were occupied, thousands of Azerbaijanis were killed, hundreds of cities, towns and villages were destroyed completely and over one million Azerbaijanis became refugees and IDPs.

“As the result of the act of genocide in Khojaly 613 people were killed, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly, 1,275 people were taken hostage, the fate of 150 people is still unknown.”

Turkish Ambassador to Spain Cihad Erginay said 20 percent of Azerbaijani lands were occupied and more than one million Azerbaijanis were expelled from their homelands as the result of the Armenian aggression. He described the Khojaly massacre as a crime not only against the Azerbaijani people, but also against all humanity, adding that the perpetrators of the crime must be punished.

Director of the Spanish Foundation for International and Strategic Studies Miguel Alvares de Eulate said the Khojaly massacre is one of the most horrific tragedies of the 20th century which grossly violated international law and human rights conventions.

Following the speeches, a short film was screened highlighting the Khojaly genocide in several languages.

The Embassy distributed Heydar Aliyev Foundation-made books, brochures and CDs about the Khojaly genocide among the participants of the commemorative event.

**Nigar Jafarli**  
**Special Correspondent**

**Estonia-Azerbaijan inter-parliamentary friendship group  
makes statement on Khojaly genocide anniversary  
(23 February 2019)**

Estonia-Azerbaijan inter-parliamentary friendship group has issued a statement on 27th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

On the night of 25-26 February 1992, as a result of the genocide act in Khojaly more than 600 people were killed, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly. “We share your grief. Those who are responsible for this violent actions must be punished,” the statement noted.

In a statement, members of the inter-parliamentary friendship group offered deep condolences to Azerbaijani people on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the tragedy.

We support Azerbaijan Republic’s efforts for restoring its territorial integrity. Peaceful settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno Karabakh conflict is the main factor for regional development, the statement said.

**Aygun Aliyeva,  
Special correspondent**

**Khojaly genocide victims commemorated in Melbourne  
(February 23, 2019)**

An event commemorating the 27th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide has been held in Melbourne, Australia.

Co-organized by the Azerbaijani Cultural Association of Victoria and the country's embassy in Australia, the ceremony brought together members of the Parliament of Victoria, public figures, Azerbaijani citizens living in Melbourne and media representatives.

Azerbaijani MPs Khanlar Fatiyev and Asim Mollazade also attended the event.

The event featured the screening of a documentary highlighting the Khojaly genocide, which was produced with the support of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

Speaking at the event, Azerbaijan's chargé d'affaires to Australia Eljan Habibzade provided an insight into the Khojaly genocide which was committed by the Armenian armed forces 27 years ago. He said that a number of countries, as well as some states of the USA have already recognized the Khojaly genocide.

MP Asim Mollazade emphasized that international community should take measures against the perpetrators of this crime. He hailed the activities of the "Justice for Khojaly" campaign initiated by Vice-president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva in this regard.

**Vugar Aghayev  
Special Correspondent**

**European Azerbaijanis Congress presents statement  
on Khojaly genocide to European Parliament member  
(February 23, 2019)**

The Congress of European Azerbaijanis has presented a statement on the 27th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide to Member of the European Parliament from the UK Sajjad Karim.

During the meeting with the MEP, president of the Congress of European Azerbaijanis Sahil Gasimov highlighted the activities of the organization. He said the Azerbaijani diaspora organizations in European countries carry out regular campaigns to increase politicians` and parliamentarians` awareness of the Nagorno-Karabakh realities and Khojaly genocide.

Sajjad Karim said he would get acquainted with the statement and present it to the British MPs as well as members of the European Parliament.

**Crowded European Karabakh rally staged in Brussels  
(February 23, 2019)**

A crowded rally to commemorate the 27th anniversary of Khojaly genocide has been staged in Luxembourg square in Brussels. The rally was initiated by Azerbaijani diaspora organizations based in more than 20 countries.

Azerbaijanis from Germany, France, Italy, Poland as well as representatives of other countries` diasporas joined the rally.

The rally participants chanted slogans such as “Justice for Khojaly!”, “Azerbaijan wants peace”, “Don`t kill innocent children”, “Freedom for Dilgam and Shahbaz”. They demanded ensuring legal and political recognition of Khojaly genocide committed by Armenia 27 years ago, exerting pressure on Armenia to return Azerbaijan`s occupied lands, restoring the rights of the Azerbaijanis who were expelled from their native lands, and forcing official Yerevan to obey the conflict-related documents.

**Exhibition remembering Khojaly victims opens in Vienna  
(February 23, 2019)**

An exhibition has been launched at Azerbaijan Culture Center in Vienna to commemorate the victims of Khojaly genocide.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Leyla Gasimova, head of the center, highlighted the history and consequences of the massacre.

Azerbaijani Ambassador to Austria Galib Israfilov said that on the night of February 25-26, 1992 the Armenian military forces occupied the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly. "613 civilians were killed that night, including 106 women and 63 children."

The ambassador said a series of events are held under "Justice for Khojaly" International Awareness Campaign initiated by vice-president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva to increase the international community's awareness of the genocide.

Deputy Chairperson of the Milli Majlis Bahar Muradova expressed regret over the fact that "no one has yet been brought to justice for this crime against humanity".

**Elgun Niftali**  
**Special Correspondent**

**27th anniversary of Khojaly genocide commemorated in South Korea  
(February 23, 2019)**

Azerbaijani Embassy in the Republic of Korea has organized a series of events to remember victims of Khojaly genocide.

The embassy partnered with “BUTA” Azerbaijan-Korea student organization to stage a rally at Gwanghwamun Square in Seoul that involved members of the Azerbaijani community living in the Republic of Korea and Korean youth.

The embassy and “BUTA” Azerbaijan-Korea Student Organization also prepared a promotional video featuring a group of Korean youth who demanded punishment for those who committed Khojaly genocide.

Second Secretary of Azerbaijani Embassy Togrul Aliyev made a presentation about the genocide for Korean youth at the Seoul International Diplomacy Forum “Refugees and Migrants” organized by HOBY Korea organization. He drew the audience’s attention to “Justice for Khojaly” international awareness raising campaign initiated by vice president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva. Aliyev said the legislative bodies of 15 countries as well as the Islamic Cooperation Organization have recognized the Khojaly tragedy as genocide.

**Los Angeles Church hosts event to commemorate Khojaly victims  
(February 25, 2019)**

The 27th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide was commemorated with a large multifaith memorial in Los Angeles.

Organized by the Consulate General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles, the event was hosted at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The event was attended by over 200 people, including faith leaders representing Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Zoroastrian and other religious communities in Los Angeles, as well as public and political figures, Consuls General and Honorary Consuls representing various countries, and journalists.

In his opening remarks, the Church's Public Affairs Associate, Dave Orton shared his impressions about Azerbaijan during his many visits to the country.

Addressing the event, Rabbi Abraham Cooper, the Associate Dean of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, which is one of the most influential Jewish organizations in the world, hailed the level of multiculturalism and interfaith tolerance in Azerbaijan. He emphasized the urgent need for lasting peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the nearest future.

Consul General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles Nasimi Aghayev gave detailed information about Khojaly, saying that the Khojaly genocide of 1992 was the first genocide in Europe after the end of the Cold War, preceding the horrific Srebrenica massacre of 1995. "Considered by many as an example of modern day genocide, the Khojaly massacre challenges what we thought could never happen," Consul General Aghayev said. "Unfortunately, the tragedy befalling the Azerbaijani people in the early 1990s did not end with Khojaly. Armenia went further and invaded around 20 percent of Azerbaijan's sovereign territory, expelling 800,000 Azerbaijanis from their homes and lands, who are still refugees scattering around the rest of Azerbaijan, and who are still waiting for the day to return to their homes," Aghayev added.

"Launched in 2008 and led by Vice President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva, an effective international campaign "Justice for Khojaly" has been instrumental in mobilizing efforts aimed at raising international awareness about Khojaly," the Consul General noted. "A growing number of countries, including the Czech Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Pakistan, Colombia, Peru, Mexico, and others have officially recognized and commemorated the Khojaly genocide. Moreover, 23 U.S. States, including seven States in our Consular district, have recognized and commemorated the Khojaly tragedy," Aghayev said.

Expressing his hope for the soonest resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict within Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, Consul General Nasimi Aghayev concluded: "I am sure one day, and that day is not far away, we will see both Azerbaijani and Armenian communities in Nagorno-Karabakh living together side by side, peacefully, as they did for many centuries before."

Then a heartbreaking video testimony of Durdane Agayeva, one of the Khojaly survivors, who was taken captive as a 20-year old girl by Armenian troops and subjected to inexplicable brutality in a torture camp was screened.

Following the screening, Bishop Juan Carlos Mendez, Chair of the Los Angeles Interfaith Council, shared his thoughts on the horrors of the Khojaly genocide and underlined the importance of educating the world about such tragedies to ensure they do not happen again. Then faith leaders representing Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Zoroastrian and other communities prayed jointly for the victims of Khojaly as well as for the peace and reconciliation between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The event then featured the musical performance by renowned Turkish pianist and composer Cem Oslu, as well as performing solo, the world-famous master of kamancha Imamyar Hasanov.

**Colombian Parliament offers condolences to Azerbaijan over Khojaly genocide  
(February 26, 2019)**

Chairman of the Colombian Parliament's Foreign Relations Commission Jaime Duran and Secretary General of the Commission Diego Alejandro Gonzalez have sent a letter of condolences to the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Bogota over the 27th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

In the letter, the Colombian lawmakers offered their deepest condolences over the 27th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide and expressed their solidarity with the people of Azerbaijan.

The letter calls the ferocious killing of 613 people during the Khojaly genocide a crime against humanity, and expresses regret over the fact that over a million people have become refugees and IDPs as a result of Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan.

Jaime Duran expressed hope that the people of Azerbaijan will not face such terrible tragedies once again and the conflict will be solved soon within the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan through the negotiations. He also wished the people of Azerbaijan peace and prosperity.

**Yusif Babanli**  
**Special correspondent**

**Azerbaijan Cultural Society of Northern California holds vigil commemorating Khojaly massacre  
(February 26, 2019)**

Azerbaijan Cultural Society of Northern California has held a vigil in front of the San Jose City Hall honoring the victims of the Khojaly massacre.

The event was attended by members of the Azerbaijani community living in San Francisco, San Jose and other cities of Northern California.

The event participants chanted different slogans by holding placards about Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and the Khojaly genocide in their hands.

They demanded ensuring legal and political recognition of the Khojaly genocide committed by Armenia 27 years ago, exerting pressure on Armenia to return Azerbaijan`s occupied lands, restoring the rights of the Azerbaijanis who were expelled from their native lands, and forcing official Yerevan to obey the conflict-related documents.

**Yusif Babanli**  
**Special correspondent**

**Khojaly genocide victims remembered in Qatar  
(February 26, 2019)**

The Embassy of Azerbaijan in Qatar has organized a ceremony to commemorate the 27th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

The event was attended by Azerbaijanis living in Qatar, intellectuals and public figures.

Addressing the event, Azerbaijani Ambassador to Qatar Rashad Ismayilov highlighted the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the Khojaly tragedy.

Ismayilov stressed that Armenian nationalists repeatedly massacred the Azerbaijani civilians, adding that the Khojaly genocide was one of the bloodiest tragedies in human history committed with special cruelty. The ambassador stressed the importance of conveying the truth about Khojaly to the world community. He stressed that Azerbaijan will never reconcile itself with the occupation of its territories and will soon end the occupation.

The "Khojaly genocide" documentary shot with the support of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation was screened.

The event participants then viewed a photo exhibition about the Khojaly genocide. The books and materials about the Karabakh conflict, in particular, the Khojaly genocide, were presented to the event participants.

**AzerTAc**

**Congresswoman Virginia Foxx makes statement on Khojaly genocide  
(February 27, 2019)**

Member of the Working Group on Azerbaijan in the US Congress, Congresswoman from the North Carolina Virginia Foxx has made a statement on the 27th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

In her statement, Virginia Foxx honored the memory of the Khojaly victims and offered deep condolences to the people of Azerbaijan.

She underlined that 613 people, including women and children, were killed on February 25-26, 1992 in Khojaly, and stressed the importance of commemorating victims of the tragedy.

Virginia Foxx also described Azerbaijan as a valuable partner for the United States.

**Yusif Babanli**  
**Special correspondent**  
**AzerTAc**

**Victims of Khojaly genocide remembered at British parliament  
(February 28, 2019)**

A roundtable has been held at the House of Commons of the Parliament of the United Kingdom to commemorate the 27th anniversary of Khojaly genocide.

The event was attended by Azerbaijani ambassador to the UK Tahir Taghizade, head of the working group on Azerbaijan-UK interparliamentary relations Javanshir Feyziyev, chair of Azerbaijan All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Bob Blackman and other officials.

Addressing the event, Bob Blackman underlined that the UK attaches great importance to developing relations with Azerbaijan. He said they share the sorrow of Azerbaijan and hope the occupied territories will soon be released.

Feyziyev thanked members of the British parliament for maintaining the tradition of hosting events on Khojaly genocide. He highlighted the history of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, adding that the settlement of the conflict will yield good results both for Azerbaijan and the entire region.

Ambassador Tahir Taghizade provided an insight into the Khojaly genocide and the history of the peace talks, including negotiations held in September and December 2018.

**Aynura Taghiyeva  
Special Correspondent  
AzerTAc**

**Jakarta Post: Justice sought for Khojaly victims  
(February 28, 2019)**

Indonesian The Jakarta Post newspaper has published an article headlined “Justice sought for Khojaly victims”.

“Friends of Azerbaijan in Indonesia and Azerbaijani people commemorated the Khojaly tragedy at the University of Indonesia (UI) in Depok, West Java, with a call for justice for the victims,” the article says.

“On the night of Feb. 25, 1992, Armenian troops killed 613 unarmed Azerbaijani people — including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people — in Khojaly. Even after 27 years, the perpetrators of this massacre were not brought to justice. They should be punished according to international law.”

Highlighting the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the article emphasizes that the occupation of Azerbaijani lands by Armenia was condemned by a number of states, including Indonesia and international organizations as the UN and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Indonesia maintains close ties with Azerbaijan and supports Azerbaijan's sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as peaceful settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

**Vugar Aghayev**  
**Special Correspondent**  
**AzerTAc**

**Khojaly genocide victims commemorated in Romania  
(March 1, 2019)**

A commemorative event on the 27th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide has been held at the National Library of Romania in Bucharest.

Participants in the event included heads and representatives of diplomatic corps accredited in Romania, intellectuals, teaching staff and students of universities, as well as members of the Board of Romania-Azerbaijan Friendship Society, Romania-Azerbaijan Bilateral Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Romania-Azerbaijan Culture and Youth Association, and Azerbaijanis living and studying in Romania.

In his opening remarks, Azerbaijani Ambassador to Romania Huseyn Najafov described the Khojaly genocide as one of the gravest crimes committed against the Azerbaijani people and humanity.

The ambassador provided an insight into the bloody events committed on the night of 25-26 February 1992, in a small town of Khojaly in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. He noted that 613 Azerbaijani civilians, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly were killed, 1,275 people were taken as hostages while 150 more are still missing.

Azerbaijani diplomat also highlighted the activities of the “Justice for Khojaly” international awareness campaign which was initiated by Vice-President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva on May 8, 2008.

Addressing the event, the Azerbaijani President's Assistant for Public and Political Affairs Ali Hasanov highlighted the mass terror and slaughter committed by the Armenians against the Azerbaijani people in the past two centuries.

The Presidential Assistant gave detailed information about Armenia’s groundless territorial claims against Azerbaijan, deportation of about 200,000 Azerbaijanis living in Armenia, the terrorist acts and massacres committed against the Azerbaijani community of Nagorno-Karabakh, and the true essence of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The event then featured the screening of a film "Khojaly genocide" by Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

**Igbal Hajiyev**  
**Special Correspondent**  
**AzerTAc**

**US Congressman releases statement on Khojaly tragedy  
(March 1, 2019)**

Co-chairman of the U.S. Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, Congressman Steve Cohen has commemorated the 27th anniversary of the Khojaly massacre. In a statement, he described the tragedy in the town of Khojaly as the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians in the course of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Cohen said Armenian armed forces descended on the town on February 26, 1992, killing 613 people, including women, children and the elderly.

The congressman said ongoing violence along the line of contact surrounding occupied Azerbaijani territory reinforces the urgency of robust American participation in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) Minsk Group as it works towards a peaceful resolution of the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict.

Cohen also described Azerbaijan as a strong partner of the United States and its ally in security and energy matters.

**Yusif Babanly  
Special Correspondent  
AzerTAc**

**Japanese TV commemorates Khojaly tragedy  
(March 2, 2019)**

Tokyo-based World Investors TV internet channel has aired a round table “Khojaly tragedy is a crime against humanity” commemorating the 27th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

Initiated by Azerbaijan-Japan Friendship Center, the round table featured Azerbaijan’s Charge d’Affair in Japan Farid Talibov, Chairman of the Center Khalil Kalantar, producer of World Investors TV Kazuyasu Ishida and AZERTAC’s special correspondent in Japan Vugar Aghayev.

Ishida provided an insight into the history of the Khojaly tragedy, saying February 26 is remembered by the Azerbaijanis throughout the world as a day of mourning. Participants of the round table highlighted the details of the genocide as well as Armenia’s policy of ethnic cleansing against the Azerbaijanis.

**AzerTAc**

**Italian senator remembers Khojaly genocide at parliament`s plenary session  
(Mach 2, 2019)**

Chairman of Italy-Azerbaijan inter-parliamentary friendship group in the Italian parliament senator Stefano Lucidi has commemorated the Khojaly genocide.

Addressing the parliament`s plenary session, Lucidi said many ethnic Azerbaijanis were killed in the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno Karabakh conflict. "613 civilians were massacred and many others were taken hostage in Khojaly." According to Lucidi, Human Rights Watch described Khojaly genocide as the largest and most terrible massacre in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

**AzerTAc**

**Indonesian websites publish article by AZERTAC's special correspondent on Khojaly genocide  
(February 24, 2020)**

A number of Indonesian websites have posted articles by AZERTAC's special correspondent Vugar Aghayev highlighting the Khojaly genocide committed by the Armenian armed forces against the peaceful Azerbaijanis.

The "eurasiareview" published the article headlined "Genocide committed against Azerbaijanis in Khojaly is a crime against all mankind".

The article says: "Every year, at the end of February, the Azerbaijani people honor the memory of the victims of the murdered by Armenian separatists in the Azerbaijani city of Khojaly on the night of Feb. 25 to Feb. 26, 1992.

The act of genocide committed in Khojaly was one of the worst tragedies of the 20th century. The world needs to know more about the misfortunes and cruelties that Armenian nationalists committed against the peaceful Azerbaijani population in the occupied lands.

Why did the Armenians choose Khojaly as their target? Apart from the strategic objectives, they wanted to destroy Khojaly as a settlement that reflects the historical and cultural heritage of the city. This culture is known as the Khojaly-Gadabay culture and dates back to the 16th century BCE. Funerary monuments such as stone boxes, barrows and a necropolis belonging to the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age, as well as a round crypt and mausoleum were discovered.

During the archaeological excavations, decorations made of stone, bronze, and bone as well as household items made of ceramics were found. The name of the Assyrian king Adad-nirari (807-788 circa BCE) is inscribed on the one of the beads found in Khojaly. Armenian terrorists destroyed all monuments of culture of the Khojaly cemetery, which was considered one of the ancient burial grounds.

Khojaly, one of the ancient settlements of Azerbaijan, was ruined and burned in one night. Armenian armed forces and mercenary units gave no qualms about the people of Khojaly, who had not managed to leave the city.

The storming of the city began with a two-hour artillery bombardment. Khojaly was blocked from three sides, and fire broke out and burned almost the entire city. Many civilians were killed by shells in the first hours of the assault. After the firing began, the Armenian fascists used loudspeakers to inform civilians that a corridor was open for them to leave the city.

The military personnel of the Russian Army's 366th regiment were active in the storming of Khojaly. At first the press center of the CIS Joint Armed Forces denied this fact. However, on March 11, 1992 the newspaper Red Star confirmed the participation of the 366th regiment in the fighting.

Yuri Girenko, who served in the 97th separate engineering department, confirmed that the soldiers of the 366th regiment who were mostly Armenian took part in the attack. Why did the Armenians appear to be in the Soviet battalion, which was located in the area of confrontation between the Armenians and Azerbaijanis? Clearly, this tactic was planned and thought out in advance.

Armenians from the regiment, having gathered soldiers, as well as volunteers of other nations, began a bloody attack of Khojaly. When the residents attempted to leave the city at 2 a.m. via the corridor, which was between 100 to 300 meters wide, they were raked with machine-gun fire. A startling 613 people were killed, 487 people were crippled, and 1,275 old men, children and women were captured and subjected to torture and humiliation. The civilians who managed to escape were brutally murdered in the forests by the Armenian military.

The Khojaly civilian population was massacred because they were Azerbaijanis. One group of refugees managed to cross the river. They were soaked to the skin, and though they tried to hide in the nearby mountains, most of them died from hypothermia by morning.

Once all the Khojaly citizens had been slaughtered, imprisoned, or had fled, Armenian soldiers took control of the region with the partial objective of obscuring the gravity of the massacre. Azerbaijani helicopters attempted to retrieve the bodies, but came under continuous fire. Most of the dead were carried in vehicles, transported by the truckload. The massacre at Khojaly by Armenia contravened international law, violated the Geneva conventions and articles 2, 3, 5, 9, and 17 of the Declaration of Human Rights (adopted by the UN General Assembly on Dec. 10, 1948). American journalist Thomas Goltz described the scene, saying, "The battered cars with wheels but without tires, piled high with rugs, pots and pans, rattled... choking with exhaust gases and bending under the weight of the mattresses and the iron beds. People were trying to overtake a tractor trailer used for transportation of cotton, where grubby kids and quacking ducks sat among the dumped in a pile

of clothes. Usually there were men at the end of the column, who either rode the donkeys, or led the mules pulling carts. Barefoot shepherds were driving frightened sheep, cows and calves, who tried to get under the wheels of a passing truck, to the other side of the road.”

The exile of the Azerbaijani refugees from their land was one of the largest in Europe since World War II. The Land of Fire and its people were at the entryway of hell. They were betrayed, cheated and abandoned.

Khojaly was the next stage of the capture and ethnic cleansing of Azerbaijani territories, creating panic and fear of shocking brutality. This barbaric cruelty toward innocent children, women and old people has no explanation.

The successors of Armenian fascists Dro and Nzhdeh are incumbent Sargsyan and Ohanyan, both of whom committed the bloody massacre in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly in the late 20th century. There are many materials and video documents as well as testimonies provided by witnesses, which confirm the participation of the above-mentioned former high-ranking officials of the Republic of Armenia in the Khojaly massacre.

Unlike the Hitler’s Germany who tried to hide their crimes, some of these individuals gave interviews to the foreign media. There they justified and boasted of their barbarous criminal acts against Azerbaijanis in Khojaly. Sargsyan’s words say it all: “Before Khojaly, the Azerbaijanis thought that the Armenians were people who could not raise their hand against the civilian population. We were able to break that stereotype.”

The bloody act of genocide – which was committed with incredible brutality and barbarism in Khojaly – is one of the most horrible tragedies of the late 20th century.

Cruel and merciless scenes of that massacre will remain a scar in the hearts of Azerbaijanis. This is a tragedy for innocent Azerbaijanis, whose lives were cut short because of the massacre perpetrated by the Armenian armed forces. Those who committed this terrible crime against humanity have not been prosecuted by international courts and remained unpunished. Unlike World War II, when the majority of the Hitler’s officers faced the international court at the Nuremberg trial, ideologues and executors of the mass slaughter live freely in the modern Republic of Armenia.

We demand Justice for Khojaly!”

The same day, “parahyangan.post” and mina.news” portals have also published other articles highlighting causes and consequences of the Khojaly tragedy committed by the Armenian armed forces.

The full text of the articles are available here: <https://www.eurasiareview.com/24022020-genocide-committed-against-azerbaijanis-in-khojaly-is-a-crime-against-all-mankind-oped/>, <http://parahyangan-post.com/berita/detail/the-genocide-committed-against-azerbaijanis-> və <https://en.minanews.net/the-genocide-committed-against-azerbaijanis-in-khojaly-is-a-crime-against-all-mankind/>.

**AZERTAC**

**Khojaly genocide victims commemorated in Switzerland  
(February 25, 2020)**

An event commemorating the 28th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide has been held in Solothurn, Switzerland.

Co-organized by the Azerbaijan-Turkish Culture Association, Friends of Azerbaijan and Cultural Center of Azerbaijanis in Switzerland diaspora organisations together with the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Switzerland, the ceremony brought together public figures and Azerbaijanis living in Switzerland.

After the commemoration of victims with a moment of silence, Azerbaijani Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation Khanim Ibrahimova started her opening address with the quote from national leader Heydar Aliyev - "The Khojaly genocide with its inconceivable cruelty and inhuman punitive methods was completely targeted against the people of Azerbaijan and represents a barbarian act in the history of humankind. At the same time, this genocide was a historical crime against humanity".

Then she briefed the guests about the Khojaly massacre, which she characterized as the most painful tragedy in the recent history of the Azerbaijani people. Ambassador talked about the atrocities committed by Armenia, noting Azerbaijan's efforts to expose the aggressive policy of this country in the world. She informed the audience about the international awareness campaign "Justice for Khojaly!", initiated by Leyla Aliyeva, Vice-president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

Khanim Ibrahimova said that President Ilham Aliyev once again exposed the Armenian aggression to the international community at the panel discussions on the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as part of the Munich Security Conference. She noted that during the debates, President Ilham Aliyev once again brought to the attention of the international community that Nagorno Karabakh is an integral part of Azerbaijan and that Armenia pursues a policy of occupation and ethnic cleansing against Azerbaijan. Ambassador called on the international community to take necessary measures against the aggressor.

Head of the Azerbaijan-Turkish Culture Association Cevzet Aras then talked about the Khojaly tragedy. He called the massacre as continuation of ethnic cleansing policy carried out by the Armenian chauvinist-nationalists against Azerbaijanis.

After the speeches the documentary film "613" was screened.

The Embassy also organized an exhibition reflecting the horrors of the Khojaly genocide, as well Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

After the official part of the event, the commemorative feast was served.

**AZERTAC**

**Turkish parliament calls for necessary assessment of Azerbaijan's Khojaly tragedy  
(February 25, 2020)**

The Turkish parliament called for the necessary assessment of Azerbaijan's Khojaly tragedy, Trend reports on Feb. 25 referring to a statement made by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Turkish parliament.

"The Khojaly tragedy is a black spot in the history of mankind," the statement said. "Turkey condemns the massacre of Azerbaijanis by Armenia and demands to withdraw Armenian troops from the occupied Azerbaijani territories. Turkey has always supported and will always support Azerbaijan."

The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. As a result of the ensuing war, in 1992 Armenian armed forces occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts.

During the Karabakh war, on Feb. 25-26, 1992, the Armenian armed forces, together with the 366th infantry regiment of Soviet troops, stationed in Khankendi, committed an act of genocide against the population of the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly. As many as 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old people were killed in the massacre. Eight families were totally exterminated, 130 children lost one parent and 25 children lost both. Some 1,275 innocent residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 people still remains unknown.

The 1994 ceasefire agreement was followed by peace negotiations. Armenia has not yet implemented four UN Security Council resolutions on withdrawal of its armed forces from Nagorno Karabakh and the surrounding districts.

**Trend**

**Turkic Council commemorates martyrs who lost their lives in Khojaly  
(February 25, 2020)**

Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council) commemorates the martyrs who lost their lives in Khojaly with deep respect and conveys its condolences to the government and people of Azerbaijan, Secretary General of the Turkic Council Baghdad Amreyev said, Trend reports with reference to the statement.

“Over the night from 25 to 26 February 1992, an unprecedented massacre was committed against the Azerbaijani civilians of Khojaly town in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan. This tragedy, which is one of the bloodiest crimes in the history of mankind, became to be known as the Khojaly genocide, involved the extermination or capture of the thousands of Azerbaijanis,” Amreyev wrote.

He reminded that as a result of the brutal atrocities, 613 people were killed, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly and 487 people were crippled.

“Moreover, 1,275 innocent people were taken hostage, and the fate of 150 people remains unknown. Civilians were shot at close range, scalped, and burned alive. The elderly, children and women who were captured were subjected to unprecedented torture, abuse and humiliation,” he said.

He added that as the Turkic Council, it commiserates deeply with its Azerbaijani brothers and sisters over this violent attack and massacre, which they suffered exactly 28 years ago today in Khojaly, and wholeheartedly share their pain.

“We also stand hand in hand with the government of Azerbaijan in their world-wide “Justice for Khojaly” International Awareness Campaign and show the necessary sensitivity to this fact.

With these feelings, we commemorate the martyrs who lost their lives in Khojaly with deep respect and convey our condolences to the government and people of Azerbaijan,” Amreyev wrote.

The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. As a result of the ensuing war, in 1992 Armenian armed forces occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts.

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The 1994 ceasefire agreement was followed by peace negotiations. Armenia has not yet implemented four UN Security Council resolutions on withdrawal of its armed forces from Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding districts.

**Trend**

**Truth about Khojaly genocide should be conveyed to even more people - Turkish MP  
(February 24, 2020)**

The Khojaly genocide isn't the first genocide committed by Armenians against Azerbaijanis, Shamil Ayrim, a member of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, head of the Turkey-Azerbaijan Friendship Group, told Trend Feb. 24.

The Azerbaijani people have been subjected to the policy of ethnic cleansing, genocide and aggression carried out by Armenian nationalists over the past 200 years, Ayrim noted.

The Turkish MP added that in particular, genocide against Azerbaijanis was committed by Armenians in 1905, 1918 and 1992.

The leader of the friendship group added that information about the Khojaly genocide should be conveyed even more actively to the international community.

"It was an act of unprecedented vandalism, and we must fully convey the message to the international community," Ayrim said.

The MP noted that Turkey has been participating in the Justice for Khojaly campaign conducted by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation for several years.

"All civil society organizations in Turkey hold events dedicated to the Khojaly tragedy," Ayrim added. "Universities also participate in this. We believe that this year, the truth about the Khojaly genocide should be conveyed to even more people, and this is a joint goal of Turkey and Azerbaijan."

The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. As a result of the ensuing war, in 1992 Armenian armed forces occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts.

During the Karabakh war, on Feb. 25-26, 1992, the Armenian armed forces, together with the 366th infantry regiment of Soviet troops, stationed in Khankendi, committed an act of genocide against the population of the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly. As many as 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old people were killed in the massacre. Eight families were totally exterminated, 130 children lost one parent and 25 children lost both. Some 1,275 innocent residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 people still remains unknown.

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**Trend**

**South Korean media highlights Khojaly genocide  
(February 25, 2020)**

The leading South Korean newspapers and web portals, including The Korea Post, The Seoul Times, The Korea Times have published articles commemorating the 28th anniversary of Khojaly genocide committed by the Armenian armed forces against the peaceful Azerbaijanis.

The Korea Post published the article headlined “Genocide committed against Azerbaijanis amidst Armenia’s aggressive war against Azerbaijan”.

The article says: “The Khojaly genocide is the gravest crime of genocide committed against peaceful Azerbaijani people in the course of Armenia’s aggressive war against Azerbaijan. The town of Khojaly is located in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. The strategic importance of Khojaly is related with its location at the crossroads of the main highways of the region, as well as, the only airport in the Nagorno-Karabakh region is also located here. In the second half of February 1992, Khojaly was under total siege by Armenian military units and any attempts by local civilians to break the siege were prevented.

On the night of 25-26 February 1992, in violation of all international legal norms, Armenian armed forces attacked the civilian population of the sieged town of Khojaly with heavy military equipment, killing them with unprecedented brutality and razing the town to the ground. As a result of crime against not only the people of Azerbaijan, but against humanity, 613 civilians, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 elders were brutally murdered on grounds of national identity.

Khojaly villagers were beheaded, had their eyes gouged out, skinned, and burned alive. Those trying to flee were killed with a particular brutality by Armenian troops who ambushed them on roads and forests.

The Khojaly genocide was organized by the political and state leadership of the Republic of Armenia and was carried out by Armenian armed forces, Armenian terrorist groups in Nagorno-Karabakh and the former USSR army deployed in Khankandi.

Unlike the Nazis who tried to hide their crimes, the perpetrators of the Khojaly genocide justified and boasted of their barbarous criminal acts against civilian Azerbaijanis. Former president of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan’s words who was directly involved in the massacre say it all: “Before Khojaly, the Azerbaijanis thought that the Armenians were people who could not raise their hand against the civilian population. We were able to break that stereotype.”

Those days, foreign news outlets such as “Sunday Times”, “Financial Times”, “Times”, “Izvestiya”, “Le Monde”, “Cruel L’Eveneman” were publishing articles on horrible scenes witnessed in Khojaly. One of them, “Times” newspaper was writing on March 4, 1992: ... “Many people were mutilated, and it was remained only the head of one little girl”.

Since 1994, the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan has declared February 26 as the Day of the Khojaly Genocide. Every year at 5 p.m. on February 26 people of Azerbaijan honors memory of Khojaly victims in a minute of silence.

The nature and gravity of the crimes committed in the town of Khojaly fully suits the definition of the word genocide as indicated in the Convention “On Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide” adopted on December 9, 1948 under Resolution 260 (III) of the UN General Assembly. The premeditated massacre on this territory was committed with intent to annihilate residents solely on grounds that they were Azerbaijanis.

Khojaly does not differ from other horrifying tragedies of Katyn, Lidice, Oradour-sur-Glane, Holocaust, Songmy, Rwanda and Srebrenica, which remain in history as deep and shameful scars.

Meanwhile, “Justice for Khojaly” International Awareness Campaign carried out in many countries and cities plays an important role in the recognition of the Khojaly tragedy as an act of genocide in the world.

In addition to several international organizations, the Parliaments of Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Pakistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania, the Czech Republic, Sudan, Jordan, Honduras, Guatemala, Panama, Slovenia, Djibouti and Paraguay already recognized the massacre in Khojaly according to the international legal norms.

Moreover, legislative bodies of 22 States of the USA, including Massachusetts, Texas, New-Jersey, Maine, New Mexico, Arkansas, Georgia, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Florida, Mississippi, West Virginia, Indiana, Utah, Nebraska, Hawaii, Montana, Arizona, Idaho and Nevada have adopted relevant Resolutions.

Administrative Department of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
P R E S I D E N T I A L   L I B R A R Y

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On the eve of the 28th anniversary of the Khojaly Genocide we once again urge all the states and international organizations to recognize this act of genocide in the name of justice, to consolidate and increase efforts for punishment of its perpetrators.”

**AZERTAC**

**OIC Secretary General commemorates Khojaly Massacre  
(February 26, 2020)**

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has released a statement of Secretary General Yousef A. Al-Othaimeen on the occasion of the 28th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide, which was committed by the Armenians in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly on the night of 25-26 February 1992.

“On the occasion of the 28th anniversary of the mass atrocities that took place in the town of Khojaly of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Dr. Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen, has paid his sincere tribute to all who lost their lives in the 1992 incident,” the statement says.

“The OIC considers that the Khojaly atrocity was a result of the illegal occupation of Azerbaijani territory by Armenia.”

The Secretary General referred to the Cairo Final Communiqué adopted by the 12th Session of the Islamic Summit held in Cairo in 2013 and the resolutions adopted by previous sessions of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), including the 46th Session of the CFM held in Abu Dhabi in 2019, which considered the actions perpetrated against civilian Azerbaijani population in the occupied Azerbaijani territories as war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

On this sad occasion, the Secretary General reaffirmed the CFM resolutions calling for the earliest political settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict on the basis of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in accordance with the generally accepted norms and principles of international law and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

**AZERTAC**

**Turkish Foreign Ministry condemns Khojaly Massacre and ongoing occupation  
of Azerbaijani territories by Armenia  
(February 26, 2020)**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey has issued a statement on the 28th commemoration of the Khojaly Massacre.

The statement reads: “On 26 February 1992, troops of the Republic of Armenia attacked the town of Khojaly in Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh region, and brutally massacred 613 innocent Azerbaijani citizens including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly & hundreds more were wounded. More than a thousand people were also taken hostage. The fate of the missing is still unknown today.

As a result of the occupation of the Azerbaijani territories including this inhuman aggression against civilians, more than a million Azerbaijanis displaced within their motherland, have become internal refugees. Today, the twenty percent of Azerbaijani territories are under Armenian occupation.

We strongly condemn this massacre and the ongoing occupation of the Azerbaijani territories by Armenia.

We stand by our Azerbaijani brothers and sisters over this massacre which they suffered 28 years ago and share their pain. We wish Allah’s mercy upon those who lost their lives in this massacre and extend once again our most sincere condolences to all Azerbaijani people.”

**AZERTAC**

**Simulation game on Khojaly tragedy held at “Karabakh” Azerbaijani school in Switzerland  
(February 27, 2020)**

A simulation game dedicated to the Khojaly tragedy has been held at “Karabakh” Azerbaijani school in Solothurn city, Switzerland.

Head of Azerbaijan’s Culture Center in Switzerland Gasim Nasirov held “Khojaly-92” pedagogical quest/simulation game with the participation of the students dedicated to the 28th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide at the “Karabakh” Azerbaijani school in Solothurn city operating under “Azerbaijan-Turkish Culture Association”. This event was co-organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Swiss Confederation and Principality of Liechtenstein and the State Committee for Diaspora Affairs.

The quest was prepared by Gasim Nasirov in accordance with the UN experience.

The quest was a game of horror experienced by the people forced to leave Khojaly. During the game, the participants played for 2 hours, taking the names and surnames of real people from Khojaly.

In the second part of the project, the students gathered in one room and shared their thoughts about the game.

At the end of the project, the students wrote their impressions on the pigeon-shape papers to commemorate the spirits of 613 innocent Khojaly residents who were brutally killed. “Nor war again”, “let this horror not happen”, “those who did it are far from humanity”, “it should not be forgotten” and other impressions were written on the papers.

After the game, the students' comments about their experiences confirmed that the project had a great impact on them and was a successful project to promote the international recognition of Khojaly truths.

**AZERTAC**

**California TV channels air documentary on Khojaly Genocide  
(February 28, 2020)**

A documentary film on the Khojaly Genocide, produced by American cinematographers in Los Angeles in 2017, and titled "Running from the Darkness" is being featured on several public TV stations in California. The documentary film is the first film on the Khojaly Genocide produced in the U.S.

The Khojaly Genocide was committed on February 25-26, 1992, in Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh region, when Armenian armed forces attacked and invaded the town of Khojaly, murdering 613 Azerbaijanis, including hundreds of infants, children, women and elderly.

The main plot of the film is based on interviews with survivors of the Khojaly Genocide. The film's airing started on public TV stations in the cities of Palo Alto, Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and Atherton in California's famed Silicon Valley, and will be screened continuously during the next two months.

The film also includes remarks by U.S. state legislators, prominent religious figures and journalist reports on the horrific atrocities committed in Khojaly by Armenian armed forces, and highlights the activities of the "Justice for Khojaly" International Awareness Campaign led by Leyla Aliyeva, the Vice President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

**AZERTAC**

**Bernama agency publishes AZERTAC special correspondent's interview on Khojaly genocide  
(March 14, 2020)**

The Malaysian national news agency Bernama has published an article featuring the interview with AZERTAC's special correspondent Vugar Aghayev who highlighted the Khojaly genocide committed by the Armenian armed forces against the peaceful Azerbaijanis.

Headlined "Khojaly Tragedy - One of the worst tragedies of the late 20th century", the article reads: "The Khojaly Tragedy – the killing of many Azerbaijani innocent people – is one of the most horrible tragedies of the late 20th century, said Vugar Aghayev, the representative of Azerbaijan State News Agency (AZERTAC) in Japan, Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

Aghayev said that the cruel scenes of the killing will remain as a scar in the hearts of Azerbaijanis.

He said those who committed the crime have not been prosecuted by international courts and remained unpunished; and as such, the Azerbaijani people continue to demand justice for Khojaly victims.

"Unlike World War II, when the Nazis faced the international court at the Nuremberg trial, ideologues and executors of the Khojaly mass slaughter live freely. The world needs to know more about the misfortunes and the cruelties inflicted by the occupying forces against the peaceful Azerbaijani population," he said.

Aghayev explained that the exile of the Azerbaijani refugees from their land was one of the largest in Europe since World War II.

Every year, at the end of February, the Azerbaijani people honour the memory of the victims of Khojaly Tragedy, which happened on the night of February 25 to February 26, 1992.

It refers to the killing of 613 ethnic Azerbaijani civilians in February 1992 in Khojaly, a small town in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

According to Azerbaijan government's statistics, the number included 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people. Besides that, 1,275 people were taken as hostages while 150 more are still missing. The government also said that more than one million Azerbaijanis became refugees and internally displaced persons due to the Armenian occupation.

Aghayev said Khojaly was chosen as the target because apart from the strategic objectives, the intention was also to destroy Khojaly as a settlement that reflects the historical and cultural heritage of the city.

"This culture is known as the Khojaly-Gadabay culture and dates back to the 16th century BCE. Khojaly, one of the ancient settlements of Azerbaijan, was ruined and burned in one night," he said.

"The Khojaly civilian population was massacred because they were Azerbaijanis. One group of refugees managed to cross the river. They were soaked to the skin, and though they tried to hide in the nearby mountains, most of them died of hypothermia by morning," recalled Aghayev.

Aghayev pointed out that the massacre at Khojaly contravened international law, violated the Geneva conventions and articles 2, 3, 5, 9, and 17 of the Declaration of Human Rights (adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 10, 1948).

The conflict between the two countries started in 1988 – three years before the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 – following Armenia's territorial claims against Azerbaijan.

And in 1992, war broke out between the two former Soviet states, resulting in Armenia's occupation of 20 per cent of Azerbaijan's territory, including Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts.

Malaysia was among the countries which have supported United Nations' resolutions adopted during the conflict, which, among others, reaffirmed Azerbaijan's territorial integrity."

**AZERTAC**

**TV program on Khojaly genocide broadcast in  
(February 24, 2021)**

A TV program dedicated to the Khojaly genocide was aired on February 23 as part of the show “The Contreras Report: International Edition” by the well-known American journalist Raoul Lowery Contreras.

Contreras has authored books titled “Murder in the Mountains: War Crime in Khojaly and the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict” and “The Armenian Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy”, both published in California. He also published many articles on Azerbaijan and the region.

In the program, the journalist states that in February 1992, Armenian troops attacked the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly and brutally killed 613 Azerbaijani civilians, including children, women and elderly. The author notes how the survivors of the Khojaly genocide were subjected to unimaginable torture by their Armenian captors.

Contreras underlines that Khojaly massacre is an act of genocide and a crime against humanity.

The author talks about the books written by Western journalists, which highlight what happened that night in Khojaly. Contreras also gives quotes from the book authored by the brother of Monte Melkonian, a California-born Armenian terrorist, who was in Khojaly during those fateful days, as well as Armenia’s former President Serzh Sargsyan’s interview, and stresses how Armenian leaders shamelessly admitted the atrocities committed by Armenia in Khojaly.

Contreras notes that perpetrators of Khojaly genocide have not been prosecuted to this date and are still at large. He says that many of them are hailed as national heroes in Armenia and have held or continue to hold high-ranking positions in the government.

At the end, the author presents testimonies by two female survivors of Khojaly.

**AZERTAC**