

## Official Ceremonies

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**Nationwide commemoration of 14rd anniversary of Bloody January tragedy  
President Ilham Aliyev pays tribute to martyrs  
(20 January, 2004)**

Though it has been 14 years since the bloody tragedy caused by the Soviet troops' action in Azerbaijan, our people remember that terrible night and express their deep hatred towards those who committed the savagery.

Those day went down to the history of Azerbaijan's struggle for freedom and territorial integrity as heroic page; the brave sons of their Motherland who valued freedom and dignity of their country and people above all other things gave their lives and reached the peak of shahids.

The carnage against peaceful citizens demanding their constitutional rights, cruel killing of hundreds of innocent people will remain in the history of humankind as ruthless terrorist act committed by the military machine of the soviet empire, and one of the gravest crimes against humanity.

Soviet Army troops invasion of Baku to suppress the broad masses of people who went into the streets to express their indignation over the imperial leadership's treacherous anti-Azerbaijan policy of support of the aggressive actions by Armenia putting territorial claims to our Republic, resulted in unprecedented tragic events and death of hundreds of innocent people. This bloody terror, however, failed to crush our people's will and striving for freedom. The January 20 tragedy also demonstrated the competitive spirit, resoluteness and pride of our people owing to which we have gain the long-awaited independence and sovereignty.

The Presidential Executive Order "On Marking the 14th Anniversary of January 20 Tragedy" says our Republic yearly marks the January 20 tragedy as the nation-wide mourning day, which will be kept in our people's bloody memory forever.

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In the morning on 20th of January, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev arrived at the Lane of Martyrs to commemorate the victims of the bloody January 1990 events.

Prayers were said for the repose of souls of shahids and nation-wide leader Heydar Aliyev.

On behalf of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev laid a wreath at the memorial "Eternal Fire."

State Military Orchestra of the Defense Ministry of Azerbaijan performed State Anthem of Azerbaijan.

Afterwards, Head of our State Ilham Aliyev met with Ambassadors of foreign countries in Baku and representatives of the international organizations who came to revere the memory of shahids. They expressed to the President of Azerbaijan their deep condolences and sympathy.

President Ilham Aliyev thanked the heads of diplomatic corps and other foreign guests.

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Among those who came to commemorate the January 20 shahids were leading employees of state organizations, and heads of religious communities functioning in Azerbaijan, as well.

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Then, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev gave interview to journalists.

At the Martyrs' Lane visiting ceremony, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev was accompanied by Chairman of the Milli Majlis Murtuz Alasgarov, Prime Minister Artur Rasizadeh, Chief of the Presidential Administration Ramiz Mehdiyev, deputies of the Parliament's Chairman and Prime-Minister and other officials.

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The nationwide visiting the Lane of Martyrs in commemoration of the January 20 shahids continued all day long.

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**Nationwide commemoration of 16rd anniversary of Bloody January tragedy  
President Ilham Aliyev pays tribute to martyrs  
(20 January, 2006)**

Despite it has been 16 years since the soviet army's bloody envision of Baku on 20 January, 1990, people in Azerbaijan continue to live with pain of that tragic night in their hearts, and express their hatred for those committed that inhuman deed.

It was the day that entered into the history of Azerbaijan's struggle for freedom and territorial integrity as a heroic page, and elevated the country's brave sons and daughters, who died while defending their freedom, honor and dignity to martyrdom.

The terror act committed by the soviet empire, which had been declaring its commitment to the principles of humanism over the whole period of its existence, against hundreds of innocent people who took to the streets to demand their constitutional rights, will remain forever in the history of humankind as one of the worst crimes against humanity.

Red army units' invasion of Baku resulted in death and injuring of hundreds of peaceful residents, who rebelled against the biased policy of the empire's criminal leadership overtly supporting Armenia's territorial claims against Azerbaijan, and treacherous stance of local authorities of that time. That bloody action, however, failed to crush the people's will and aspiration to freedom.

During some period after the soviet regime collapsed, and Azerbaijan regained its state independence, the country's leaders had been involved in struggle for power, taking no steps to have the crime investigated and given a legal and political assessment. It was not in their interest because they themselves were to some extent accountable for what had happened.

Legal and political assessment to the January 20 tragedy was given, and the offenders were identified only in 1994, a year after national leader of the Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev returned to power in the Republic.

Ever since, Azerbaijan marks January 20 as the date symbolizing heroic struggle of its people for freedom, independence and territorial integrity.

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In the morning on 20 January, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev arrived at the Alley of Martyrs to commemorate the victims of the bloody tragedy. He laid a wreath with the words "President of the Republic of Azerbaijan to 20 January Shehids (martyrs)" written on the ribbon around it.

Attending the commemoration ceremony ambassadors of foreign countries and representatives of international organizations functioning in Baku expressed their sympathies to President Ilham Aliyev.

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Among those visiting the Alley of Martyrs were Speaker of the Milli Majlis Ogtay Asadov, Prime Minister Artur Rasizade, Chief of the President's Administration Ramiz Mehdiyev, as well as deputies of the Speaker and the Prime Minister, and other officials.

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**Nationwide commemoration of 17rd anniversary of Bloody January tragedy  
President Ilham Aliyev pays tribute to martyrs  
(20 January, 2007)**

On January 20, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev visited the Alley of Martyrs to honor the sacred memory of those who fell victims of the bloody massacre committed by the Soviet army on this day 17 years ago.

Located at one of the highest points of Baku, the Alley of Martyrs is the place where those who gave their lives for territorial integrity of Azerbaijan in combat against Armenian aggressors were buried, as well.

President Aliyev laid a wreath at the Memorial Eternal Fire.

Foreign ambassadors and representatives of international organizations, who were also present at the commemoration ceremony, extended their sympathies and condolences to the Azerbaijanian leader.

Also in attendance along with President Ilham Aliyev at the Alley of Martyrs were Prime Minister Artur Rasizade, Speaker Ogtay Asadov, Chief of the Presidential Administration Ramiz Mehdiyev as well as other governmental officials, and religious figures.

Thousands of residents of the Azerbaijan capital, representatives from other cities and regions of the country, as well as numerous foreign guests have visited the Alley of Martyrs today to pay tribute to the heroes, and lay wreaths and flowers at their graves.

**Nationwide commemoration of 18rd anniversary of Bloody January tragedy  
President Ilham Aliyev pays tribute to martyrs  
(20 January, 2008)**

The 20th of January, 1990 entered into the modern history of Azerbaijan as one of the most tragic days, and at the same time as a heroic page.

That terrible day elevated the country's brave sons and daughters, who died while defending their freedom, honor and dignity, to martyrdom.

Despite it has been 18 years since the soviet army's bloody invasion of Baku on 20 January, 1990, people in Azerbaijan continue to live with pain of that tragic night in their hearts, and express their hatred for those who committed that inhuman deed and for their servants in Azerbaijan.

The terror act committed by the soviet empire, led by disgraced Gorbachev, which had been declaring its commitment to the principles of humanism over the whole period of its existence, against hundreds of innocent people who took to the streets to demand their constitutional rights, will remain forever in the history of humankind as one of the worst crimes against humanity.

Red army units' invasion of Baku resulted in death and injuring of hundreds of peaceful residents, who rebelled against the biased policy of the empire's criminal leadership overtly supporting Armenia's territorial claims against Azerbaijan, and treacherous stance of Azerbaijan's local authorities of that time.

Unlike them, the Azerbaijani people's great son Heydar Aliyev, who then lived in Moscow, despite his illness, came to Azerbaijan's permanent representative office - a day after the tragedy – and strongly condemned those who committed the January massacre, thereby once again demonstrating his courage and bravery, and his being the devoted son of his people.

That bloody action, incited by Armenians, however, failed to crush the people's will and aspiration to freedom.

The Azerbaijani people gained their independence and freedom for the price of their blood, and they will never give them away.

During some period after the soviet regime collapsed, and Azerbaijan regained its state independence, the country's leaders had been involved in a struggle for power, taking no steps to have the crime investigated and given a legal and political assessment.

Legal and political assessment to the January 20 tragedy was given, and the offenders were identified only in 1994, a year after national leader of the Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev returned to power in the Republic.

The modern Azerbaijani state and its leadership are very sensitive about marking such tragic dates like March of 1918, January 20 of 1990 and Khojaly tragedy of 1992; and reconstruction and repair at the Alley of Martyrs ordered by Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev is yet another evidence of this.

Azerbaijan has been remembering the victims of the January 20 tragedy ever since.

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The Administration of the President has prepared a plan of action to commemorate the 18th anniversary of the January tragedy.

In the morning on 20 January, President Ilham Aliyev and his spouse Mehriban Aliyeva arrived at the Alley of Martyrs to commemorate the victims of the bloody tragedy.

Prayers were said for the shahids.

The President laid a wreath at the Eternal Fire monument.

A military orchestra played the national anthem of Azerbaijan.

Attending the commemoration ceremony ambassadors of foreign countries and representatives of international organizations functioning in Baku expressed their sympathies to President Ilham Aliyev.

Among those visiting the Alley of Martyrs were Speaker of the Milli Majlis Ogtay Asadov, and Chief of the President's Administration Ramiz Mehdiyev, as well as deputies of the Speaker and the Prime Minister, and other officials.



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**Nationwide commemoration of 19rd anniversary of Bloody January tragedy  
President Ilham Aliyev pays tribute to martyrs  
(20 January, 2009)**

The 20th of January, 1990 entered into the modern history of Azerbaijan as one of the most tragic days, and at the same time as a heroic page.

That terrible day elevated the country's brave sons and daughters, who died while defending their freedom, honor and dignity, to martyrdom.

Despite it has been 19 years since the soviet army's bloody invasion of Baku on 20 January, 1990, people in Azerbaijan continue to live with pain of that tragic night in their hearts, and express their hatred for those who committed that inhuman deed and for their servants in Azerbaijan.

The terror act committed by the soviet empire - led by disgraced Gorbachev, which had been declaring its commitment to the principles of humanism over the whole period of its existence - against hundreds of innocent people who took to the streets to demand their constitutional rights, will remain forever in the history of mankind as one of the worst crimes against humanity.

This resulted in death and injuring of hundreds of peaceful residents in the country, especially in Baku, who rebelled against the biased policy of the empire's criminal leadership overtly supporting Armenia's territorial claims against Azerbaijan, and treacherous stance of Azerbaijan's local authorities of that time.

Unlike them, the Azerbaijani people's great son Heydar Aliyev, who then lived in Moscow, despite his illness, came to Azerbaijan's permanent representative office - a day after the tragedy - and strongly condemned those who committed the January massacre, thereby once again demonstrating his courage and bravery, and his being the devoted son of his people.

That bloody action, incited by Armenians, however, failed to crush the Azerbaijani people's will and aspiration to freedom.

The Azerbaijani people gained their independence and freedom for the price of their blood, and they will never give them away.

During some period after the soviet regime collapsed and Azerbaijan regained its state independence, the country's leaders had been involved in a struggle for power, taking no steps to have the crime investigated and given a legal and political assessment.

It is national leader of the Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev's returning to power in the Republic, that made it possible in 1994 to give legal and political assessment to the January 20 tragedy and identify the offenders.

The modern Azerbaijani state and its leadership are very sensitive about marking such tragic dates like March of 1918, January 20 of 1990 and Khojaly tragedy of 1992; and reconstruction and repair at the Alley of Martyrs ordered by Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev is yet another evidence of this.

Azerbaijan has been remembering the victims of the January 20 tragedy ever since.

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The Administration of the President has prepared a plan of action to commemorate the 19th anniversary of the January tragedy.

In the morning of 20 January, President Ilham Aliyev and his spouse Mehriban Aliyeva arrived at the Alley of Martyrs to commemorate the victims of the bloody tragedy.

The President laid a wreath at the Eternal Flame monument.

A military orchestra of the defense ministry played the national anthem of Azerbaijan.

Attending the commemoration ceremony were state and government officials, religious leaders, ambassadors of foreign countries and representatives of international organizations functioning in Baku.

Among those visiting the Alley of Martyrs were Prime Minister Artur Rasizade, Speaker of the Milli Majlis Ogtay Asadov, and deputies of the Premier and Speaker.

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**Nationwide commemoration of 20rd anniversary of Bloody January tragedy  
President Ilham Aliyev pays tribute to martyrs  
(20 January, 2010)**

Today marks 20 years since the Black January events when the Soviet army invaded Azerbaijan`s capital, Baku, killing and injuring hundreds of innocent and defenseless people.

The 20th of January, 1990 entered into the modern history of Azerbaijan as one of the most tragic days, and at the same time as a heroic page.

The terror act committed by the Soviet empire against hundreds of innocent people who took to streets in protest against the biased policy of the empire`s criminal leadership, overtly supporting Armenia`s territorial claims against Azerbaijan, will remain forever in the history of mankind as one of the worst crimes against humanity.

That terrible day elevated the country`s brave sons and daughters, who died while defending their freedom, honor and dignity, to martyrdom.

Despite it has been 20 years since the Soviet Army`s bloody invasion of Baku, people in Azerbaijan continue to live with pain of that tragic night in their hearts, and express their hatred for those who committed that inhuman deed.

Every year on this day hundreds of thousands of people visit the Alley of Martyrs in Baku to pay tribute to Azerbaijan`s valiant sons and daughters.

The Black January was nothing but a state`s massacre of its people. It was a vast violation of the constitutions of the former USSR and the Azerbaijan Soviet Republic. By sending troops against peaceful people the Soviet Union roughly violated international legal norms, including the United Nations` Charter and the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights of 1966.

However, the then authorities of Azerbaijan failed to find courage for themselves to stand by their people even at such a difficult moment.

Unlike them, Azerbaijan`s great son Heydar Aliyev, who then lived in Moscow, came to Azerbaijan`s permanent representative office - a day after the tragedy – and strongly condemned those who committed the January massacre, thereby once again demonstrating his courage and bravery and his devotion to his people.

However, that bloody action, incited by Armenians, failed to crush the Azerbaijani people`s will and aspiration to freedom.

The Azerbaijani people gained their independence and freedom for the price of their blood, and they will never give them away.

It is national leader Heydar Aliyev`s returning to power in Azerbaijan, that made it possible in 1994 to give a legal and political assessment to the January 20 tragedy and identify the offenders.

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The Administration of the President has prepared a plan of action to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the January tragedy.

On Wednesday morning, President Ilham Aliyev and his spouse Mehriban Aliyeva arrived at the Alley of Martyrs to commemorate the victims of the bloody tragedy.

The President laid a wreath at the Eternal Flame monument as a military orchestra of the defense ministry played the national anthem of Azerbaijan.

Attending the commemoration ceremony were state and government officials, religious leaders, ambassadors of foreign countries and representatives of international organizations functioning in Baku.

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Prime Minister Artur Rasizadeh, Speaker of the Milli Majlis Ogtay Asadov and head of the Presidential Administration Ramiz Mehdiyev were also at the Alley of Martyrs.

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**Azerbaijan`s President Ilham Aliyev pays tribute to martyrs of January 20  
(20 January, 2011)**

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and his spouse Mehriban Aliyeva on Thursday morning arrived at the Alley of Martyrs to commemorate the victims of the bloody January tragedy.

The President laid a wreath at the Eternal Flame monument as a military orchestra of the defense ministry played the national anthem of Azerbaijan.

Attending the commemoration ceremony were state and government officials, religious leaders, ambassadors of foreign countries and representatives of international organizations functioning in Baku.

Prime Minister Artur Rasizade, Speaker of the Milli Majlis Ogtay Asadov and head of the Presidential Administration Ramiz Mehdiyev were also at the Alley of Martyrs.

**Nationwide commemoration of 22rd anniversary of Bloody January tragedy  
Ilham Aliyev pays tribute to fond memories of martyrs of January 20  
(20 January, 2012)**

22 years elapse since the bloody 20 January events. On this day of the national mourning – the 20th January, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev paid tribute to the memory of martyrs.

The 20th of January 1990 left in the contemporary history of Azerbaijan as one of the most tragic days, but remembered also as the glorious day of our people. Twenty two years ago, during the night from January 19 to January 20, Soviet Army troupes launched wide scale military operations against large masses indignant over actions of the aggressive Armenia and favor of the former Soviet leadership for Armenians by pouring to the streets and squares of Baku in sign of a strong protest. Holding the freedom of their Motherland and people above all, patriot sons and daughters of Azerbaijan have sacrificed their lives on that awful night by becoming the martyrs of their own land.

In spite of 22 years that pass since bloodbath perpetrated by former Soviet military machine in Azerbaijan, our people remember constantly that appalling night, live with pain of that tragedy and deplores strongly all those that stood behind barbaric actions. Each year, on January 20, thousands of people visit the Alley of Martyrs and pay their tribute to fond memories of Azerbaijan's sons and daughters that sacrificed themselves for the sake of Motherland's freedom and sovereignty.

The tragedy of 20 January is seen as unprecedented aggression and massacre committed by the State against its own people. It was a rude violation of the former USSR and Azerbaijani Soviet Republic's Constitutions and its full disregarding. Having sent the troupes against civilians, USSR government has ignored UN Charter and international law norms and violated several dispositions of the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights of 1966. In the aftermath of the tragedy, the then slave minded authorities which lacked courage to join their own people at that time and still followed their Soviet patrons. Differently from them, living in Moscow at that time, our national leader Heydar Aliyev came to the permanent representation of Azerbaijan on the next day since tragedy by putting his life in danger and made statement by deploring strongly those who perpetrated the bloody January massacre and brought the message to the international community about this awful event faced by our people. Thus, our great leader demonstrated once again his courage, bravery and commitment to own people.

However, this bloodshed could not crush will of the Azerbaijani people and subdue its aspirations for freedom. Though it costed the lives, our people have rejoiced its dreams of freedom and independence.

Following the political comeback of national leader of the Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev, the political-legal assessment was given to the event of 20 January and the names of perpetrators of this crime were announced to the public.

Each year, the Azerbaijani people pay deep respect to the memories of victims of the 20 January tragedy.

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In the morning of January 20, President Ilham Aliyev came to the Alley of Martyrs to pay tribute to fond memories of the dead in the tragedy of January 20.

President Ilham Aliyev laid the wreath to the Monument of Eternal Flame.

Azerbaijani anthem was performed by the Special Exemplary Military Orchestra of the Ministry of Defense.

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State and government officials, heads of religious communities, ambassadors of foreign countries as well as representatives of international organizations joined the ceremony of paying tribute to our martyrs.

x x x

Prime Minister Artur Rasi-zade, Chairman of Milli Majlis Ogtay Asadov and Head of the Presidential Administration Ramiz Mehdiyev have participated at this event.

**<http://en.president.az/articles/4109>**

**Nationwide commemoration of 23rd anniversary of Bloody January tragedy  
President Ilham Aliyev pays tribute to martyrs  
(20 January, 2013)**

Baku, January 20 (AzerTAc). Today marks 23 years since the Black January events when the Soviet army invaded Azerbaijan`s capital, Baku, killing and injuring hundreds of innocent and defenseless people.

The 20th of January, 1990 entered into the modern history of Azerbaijan as one of the most tragic days, and at the same time as a heroic page.

The terror act committed by the Soviet empire against of innocent people who took to streets in protest against the biased policy of the empire`s criminal leadership, overtly supporting Armenia`s territorial claims against Azerbaijan, will remain forever in the history of mankind as one of the worst crimes against humanity.

That terrible day elevated the country`s brave sons and daughters, who died while defending their freedom, honor and dignity, to martyrdom.

Despite it has been 23 years since the Soviet Army`s bloody invasion of Baku, people in Azerbaijan continue to live with pain of that tragic night in their hearts, and express their hatred for those who committed that inhuman deed.

Every year on this day hundreds of thousands of people visit the Alley of Martyrs in Baku to pay tribute to Azerbaijan`s valiant sons and daughters.

The Black January was nothing but a state`s massacre of its people. It was a vast violation of the constitutions of the former USSR and the Azerbaijan Soviet Republic. By sending troops against peaceful people the Soviet Union – led by Mikhail Gorbachev – roughly violated international legal norms, including the United Nations` Charter and the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights of 1966.

However, the then authorities of Azerbaijan failed to find courage for themselves to stand by their people even at such a difficult moment.

Unlike them, Azerbaijan`s great son Heydar Aliyev, who then lived in Moscow, came to Azerbaijan`s permanent representative office - a day after the tragedy – and strongly condemned those who committed the January massacre, thereby once again demonstrating his courage and bravery and his devotion to his people.

However, that bloody action, incited by Armenians, failed to crush the Azerbaijani people`s will and aspiration to freedom.

The Azerbaijani people gained their independence and freedom for the price of their blood, and they will never give them away.

It is national leader Heydar Aliyev`s returning to power in Azerbaijan, that made it possible in 1994 to give a legal and political assessment to the January 20 tragedy and identify the offenders.



The Administration of the President has prepared a plan of action to commemorate the 23th anniversary of the January tragedy.

On Sunday morning President Ilham Aliyev visited the Alley of Martyrs to commemorate the victims of the bloody tragedy.

The President laid a wreath at the Eternal Flame monument as a military orchestra of the defense ministry played the national anthem of Azerbaijan.

Attending the commemoration ceremony were state and government officials, religious leaders, ambassadors of foreign countries and representatives of international organizations functioning in Baku.

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Prime Minister Artur Rasizade, speaker of the Milli Majlis Ogtay Asadov and head of the Presidential Administration Ramiz Mehdiyev were among the participants of the commemorative ceremony.

## **Nationwide commemoration of 24th anniversary of Bloody January tragedy President Ilham Aliyev pays tribute to martyrs (20 January, 2014)**

Today marks 24 years since the Black January events when the Soviet army invaded Azerbaijan`s capital, Baku, killing and injuring hundreds of innocent and defenseless people.

The 20th of January, 1990 entered into the modern history of Azerbaijan as one of the most tragic days, and at the same time as a heroic page.

The terror act committed by the Soviet empire against innocent people who took to streets in protest against the biased policy of the empire`s criminal leadership, overtly supporting Armenia`s territorial claims against Azerbaijan, will forever remain in the history of mankind as one of the worst crimes against humanity.

That terrible day elevated the country`s brave sons and daughters, who died while defending their freedom, honor and dignity, to martyrdom.

Despite it has been 24 years since the Soviet Army`s bloody invasion of Baku, people in Azerbaijan continue to live with pain of that tragic night in their hearts, and express their hatred for those who committed that inhuman deed.

Every year on this day hundreds of thousands of people visit the Alley of Martyrs in Baku to pay tribute to Azerbaijan`s valiant sons and daughters.

The Black January was nothing but a state`s massacre of its people. It was a vast violation of the constitutions of the former USSR and the Azerbaijan Soviet Republic. By sending troops against peaceful people the Soviet Union roughly violated international legal norms, including the United Nations` Charter and the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights of 1966.

However, the then authorities of Azerbaijan failed to find courage for themselves to stand by their people even at such a difficult moment.

Unlike them, Azerbaijan`s great son Heydar Aliyev, who then lived in Moscow, came to Azerbaijan`s permanent representative office - a day after the tragedy – and strongly condemned those who committed the January massacre, thereby once again demonstrating his courage and bravery and his devotion to his people.

However, that bloody action, incited by Armenians, failed to crush the Azerbaijani people`s will and aspiration to freedom.

The Azerbaijani people gained their independence and freedom for the price of their blood, and they will never give them away.

It is national leader Heydar Aliyev`s returning to power in Azerbaijan, that made it possible in 1994 to give a legal and political assessment to the January 20 tragedy and identify the offenders.

**X X X**

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On Monday morning President Ilham Aliyev visited the Alley of Martyrs to commemorate the victims of the bloody tragedy.

The President laid a wreath at the Eternal Flame monument as a military orchestra of the Defense Ministry played the national anthem of Azerbaijan.

**X X X**

Attending the commemoration ceremony were state and government officials, religious leaders, ambassadors of foreign countries and representatives of international organizations functioning in Baku.

**X X X**

Prime Minister Artur Rasizade, speaker of the Milli Majlis Ogtay Asadov and head of the Presidential Administration Ramiz Mehdiyev were among the participants of the commemorative ceremony.

## **President Ilham Aliyev paid tribute to 20 January martyrs (20 January, 2015)**

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev paid tribute to the victims of the bloody January tragedy on the National Mourning Day.

Twenty-five years have passed since bloody January. 20 January 1990 went down in the history of modern Azerbaijan as one of the most tragic and, at the same time, heroic dates for our people. This date has become a symbol of the struggle for national independence, freedom and unshakeable will. The people of Azerbaijan, subjected to punitive measures of the armed-to-the-teeth Soviet army, did not lose their aspiration to freedom. On the contrary, their voice grew even stronger.

Twenty-five years ago, on that horrific night, the courageous sons and daughters of Azerbaijan for whom the freedom, honor and dignity of their native country and people were above anything else, sacrificed their lives and became martyrs. Although many years have passed since Soviet troops perpetrated this bloody massacre in Azerbaijan, our people have not forgotten the pain of those horrendous days and are expressing their contempt for the then leaders of the Soviet empire and their servants in Azerbaijan for unleashing suffering on their own citizens.

The deployment of a large military contingent against large masses of people protesting at the biased and pro-Armenian policies of the USSR leadership, its overt support for Armenia's territorial claims for historically Azerbaijani lands and the treacherous stance of the then leaders of the republic led to an unseen tragedy in Azerbaijan, especially in Baku, and to the killing of many innocent people. Despite this, instead of standing by their people, the incompetent and slave-like leaders of Azerbaijan continued to hold on to Soviet leadership.

In contrast to them, the brilliant son of the Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev, who lived in Moscow at the time, put his own life at risk by going to Azerbaijan's permanent representative office on the day following the tragedy, made a harshly-worded statement condemning the perpetrators of the Bloody January events and informed the world of the atrocities unleashed on our people. By doing so, our great leader demonstrated his courage, bravery and dedication to his people again.

However, this Armenian-instigated crime could not break the will of the Azerbaijani people or put out their love of freedom. Our people managed to fulfill their dream of freedom and independence, albeit at such a high cost, and will never let go of this achievement.

The massacre perpetrated by the Soviet military machine in Azerbaijan was an act of unseen aggression and genocide of citizens by their own state, a flagrant breach of the Constitutions of the former USSR and the Azerbaijan SSR. By sending troops to crush the civilian population on that night, the USSR government flouted the UN Charter, international law and a number of clauses of the International Treaty on Civil and Political Rights of which the USSR had been a member.

After nationwide leader Heydar Aliyev returned to power in Azerbaijan, a political and legal assessment of the 20 January events was given in 1994 and the names of those guilty of the crime were made public. Since then 20 January has been commemorated as National Mourning Day.

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Every year on this date, the people of Azerbaijan pay tribute to the 20 January martyrs.

**X X X**

On the morning of 20 January, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev visited the Alley of Martyrs to honor the cherished memory of the victims of the bloody January tragedy.

President Ilham Aliyev laid a wreath at the "Eternal Flame" memorial.

The Defense Ministry's military orchestra played the national anthem of Azerbaijan.

**X X X**

Participants in the commemorative ceremony included state and government officials, heads of religious communities in the country, ambassadors of foreign countries to Azerbaijan, and representatives of international organizations.

**X X X**

The ceremony at the Alley of Martyrs was attended by Prime Minister Artur Rasizade and Parliament Speaker Ogtay Asadov.

## **President Ilham Aliyev paid tribute to 20 January martyrs (20 January, 2016)**

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and his wife Mehriban Aliyeva have visited the Alley of Martyrs to pay tribute to the victims of the Bloody January tragedy on the National Mourning Day.

Twenty-six years have passed since bloody January. 20 January 1990 went down in the history of modern Azerbaijan as one of the most tragic and, at the same time, heroic dates for our people. This date has become a symbol of the struggle for national independence, freedom and unshakeable will. The people of Azerbaijan, subjected to punitive measures of the armed-to-the-teeth Soviet army, did not lose their aspiration to freedom. On the contrary, their voice grew even stronger.

Twenty-six years ago, on that horrific night, the courageous sons and daughters of Azerbaijan for whom the freedom, honor and dignity of their native country and people were above anything else, sacrificed their lives and became martyrs. Although many years have passed since Soviet troops perpetrated this bloody massacre in Azerbaijan, our people have not forgotten the pain of those horrendous days and are expressing their contempt for the then leaders of the Soviet empire and their servants in Azerbaijan for unleashing suffering on their own citizens.

The deployment of a large military contingent against large masses of people protesting at the biased and pro-Armenian policies of the USSR leadership, its overt support for Armenia's territorial claims for historically Azerbaijani lands and the treacherous stance of the then leaders of the republic led to an unseen tragedy in Azerbaijan, especially in Baku, and to the killing of many innocent people. Despite this, instead of standing by their people, the incompetent and slave-like leaders of Azerbaijan continued to hold on to Soviet leadership.

In contrast to them, the brilliant son of the Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev, who lived in Moscow at the time, put his own life at risk by going to Azerbaijan's permanent representative office on the day following the tragedy, and made a harshly-worded statement condemning the perpetrators of the Bloody January events and informed the world of the atrocities unleashed on our people. By doing so, our great leader demonstrated his courage, bravery and dedication to his people again.

However, this Armenian-instigated crime could not break the will of the Azerbaijani people or put out their love of freedom. Our people managed to fulfill their dream of freedom and independence, albeit at such a high cost, and will never let go of this achievement.

The massacre perpetrated by the Soviet military machine in Azerbaijan was an act of unseen aggression and genocide of citizens by their own state, a flagrant breach of the Constitutions of the former USSR and the Azerbaijan SSR. By sending troops to crush the civilian population on that night, the USSR government flouted the UN Charter, international law and a number of clauses of the International Treaty on Civil and Political Rights of which the USSR had been a member.

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After nationwide leader Heydar Aliyev returned to power in Azerbaijan, a political and legal assessment of the 20 January events was given in 1994 and the names of those guilty of the crime were made public. Since then 20 January has been commemorated as National Mourning Day.

Every year on this date, the people of Azerbaijan pay tribute to the 20 January martyrs.

**X X X**

The head of state laid a wreath at the "Eternal Flame" memorial.

The Defense Ministry's military orchestra played the national anthem of Azerbaijan.

**X X X**

Participants in the commemorative ceremony included state and government officials, heads of religious communities, ambassadors of foreign countries to Azerbaijan, and representatives of international organizations.

**X X X**

The ceremony at the Alley of Martyrs was attended by Prime Minister Artur Rasizade, Parliament Speaker Ogtay Asadov and head of the Presidential Administration Ramiz Mehdiyev.

## **President Ilham Aliyev paid tribute to 20 January martyrs (20 January, 2017)**

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and his wife Mehriban Aliyeva have visited the Alley of Martyrs to pay tribute to the victims of the Bloody January tragedy on the National Mourning Day.

Twenty-seven years have passed since bloody January. 20 January 1990 went down in the history of modern Azerbaijan as one of the most tragic and, at the same time, heroic dates for our people. This date has become a symbol of the struggle for national independence, freedom and unshakeable will. The people of Azerbaijan, subjected to punitive measures of the armed-to-the-teeth Soviet army, did not lose their aspiration to freedom. On the contrary, their voice grew even stronger.

Twenty-seven years ago, on that horrific night, the courageous sons and daughters of Azerbaijan for whom the freedom, honor and dignity of their native country and people were above anything else, sacrificed their lives and became martyrs. Although many years have passed since Soviet troops perpetrated this bloody massacre in Azerbaijan, our people have not forgotten the pain of those horrendous days and are expressing their contempt for the then leaders of the Soviet empire and their servants in Azerbaijan for unleashing suffering on their own citizens.

The deployment of a large military contingent against large masses of people protesting at the biased and pro-Armenian policies of the USSR leadership, its overt support for Armenia's territorial claims for historically Azerbaijani lands and the treacherous stance of the then leaders of the republic led to an unseen tragedy in Azerbaijan, especially in Baku, and to the killing of many innocent people. Despite this, instead of standing by their people, the incompetent and slave-like leaders of Azerbaijan continued to hold on to Soviet leadership.

In contrast to them, the brilliant son of the Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev, who lived in Moscow at the time, put his own life at risk by going to Azerbaijan's permanent representative office on the day following the tragedy, and made a harshly-worded statement condemning the perpetrators of the Bloody January events and informed the world of the atrocities unleashed on our people. By doing so, our great leader demonstrated his courage, bravery and dedication to his people again.

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Every year on this date, the people of Azerbaijan pay tribute to the 20 January martyrs.

**X X X**

The head of state laid a wreath at the "Eternal Flame" memorial.

The Defense Ministry's military orchestra played the national anthem of Azerbaijan.

**X X X**

Participants in the commemorative ceremony included state and government officials, heads of religious communities, ambassadors of foreign countries to Azerbaijan, and representatives of international organizations.

**X X X**

The ceremony at the Alley of Martyrs was attended by Prime Minister Artur Rasizade, Parliament Speaker Ogtay Asadov and head of the Presidential Administration Ramiz Mehdiyev.

**Nationwide commemoration of Bloody January tragedy  
President Ilham Aliyev paid tribute to martyrs  
(January 20, 2018)**

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva have paid tribute to the victims of the bloody January tragedy on the National Mourning Day.

Twenty-eight years have passed since bloody January. 20 January 1990 went down in the history of modern Azerbaijan as one of the most tragic and, at the same time, heroic dates for our people. This date has become a symbol of the struggle for national independence, freedom and unshakeable will. The people of Azerbaijan, subjected to punitive measures of the armed-to-the-teeth Soviet army, did not lose their aspiration to freedom. On the contrary, their voice grew even stronger.

Twenty-eight years ago, on that horrific night, the courageous sons and daughters of Azerbaijan for whom the freedom, honor and dignity of their native country and people were above anything else, sacrificed their lives and became martyrs. Although many years have passed since Soviet troops perpetrated this bloody massacre in Azerbaijan, our people have not forgotten the pain of those horrendous days and are expressing their contempt for the then leaders of the Soviet empire and their servants in Azerbaijan for unleashing suffering on their own citizens.

The deployment of a large military contingent against large masses of people protesting at the biased and pro-Armenian policies of the USSR leadership, its overt support for Armenia's territorial claims for historically Azerbaijani lands and the treacherous stance of the then leaders of the republic led to unseen tragedy in Azerbaijan, especially in Baku, and to the killing of many innocent people. Despite this, instead of standing by their people, the incompetent and slave-like leaders of Azerbaijan continued to hold on to Soviet leadership.

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After national leader Heydar Aliyev returned to power in Azerbaijan, a political and legal assessment of the 20 January events was given in 1994 and the names of those guilty of the crime were made public. Since then 20 January has been commemorated as National Mourning Day.

Every year on this date, the people of Azerbaijan pay tribute to 20 January martyrs.

**X X X**

On 20 January, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva visited the Alley of Martyrs to honor the cherished memory of the victims of the bloody January tragedy.

President Ilham Aliyev laid a wreath at the "Eternal Flame" memorial. The Defense Ministry's military orchestra played the national anthem of Azerbaijan.

**X X X**

Participants in the commemorative ceremony included state and government officials, heads of religious communities, ambassadors of foreign countries to Azerbaijan, and representatives of international organizations.

**X X X**

The ceremony at the Alley of Martyrs was also attended by Parliament Speaker Ogtay Asadov and head of the Presidential Administration Ramiz Mehdiyev.

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**Nationwide commemoration of Bloody January tragedy  
President Ilham Aliyev paid tribute to martyrs  
(January 20, 2019)**

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva have paid tribute to the victims of the 20 January tragedy on the National Mourning Day.

President Ilham Aliyev laid a wreath at the "Eternal Flame" memorial.

The Defense Ministry's military orchestra played the national anthem of Azerbaijan.

Among those in attendance at the commemorative ceremony were Prime Minister Novruz Mammadov, Parliament Speaker Ogtay Asadov, head of the Presidential Administration Ramiz Mehdiyev, state and government officials, heads of religious communities, ambassadors of foreign countries to Azerbaijan, and representatives of international organizations.

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**Nationwide commemoration of Bloody January tragedy  
President Ilham Aliyev paid tribute to martyrs  
(January 20, 2020)**

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva have paid tribute to the victims of the 20 January tragedy on the National Mourning Day.

President Ilham Aliyev laid a wreath at the "Eternal Flame" memorial.

The Defense Ministry's military orchestra played the national anthem of Azerbaijan.

Among those in attendance at the commemorative ceremony were Prime Minister Ali Asadov, Parliament Speaker Ogtay Asadov, head of the Presidential Administration Samir Nuriyev, state and government officials, heads of religious communities, ambassadors of foreign countries to Azerbaijan, and representatives of international organizations.

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**Nationwide commemoration of Bloody January tragedy  
President Ilham Aliyev paid tribute to martyrs  
(January 20, 2021)**

Thirty-one years have passed since the bloody 20 January. President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva visited the Alley of Martyrs on the 31st anniversary of the 20 January tragedy which was committed by the Soviet empire in Baku.

President Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva paid tribute to those who gave their lives for the country's freedom.

President Ilham Aliyev laid a wreath at the "Eternal Flame" memorial. The national anthem of the Republic of Azerbaijan was played.

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**President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva visited Alley of Martyrs on 32nd anniversary of 20 January tragedy (January 20, 2022)**

Thirty-two years have passed since the bloody 20 January tragedy. On 20 January – National Mourning Day, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva visited the Alley of Martyrs on the 32nd anniversary of the bloodshed which was committed by the Soviet empire in Baku.

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva paid tribute to those who gave their lives for the country's freedom.

President Ilham Aliyev laid a wreath at the “Eternal Flame” monument.

The national anthem of the Republic of Azerbaijan was played.