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COMMISSION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
Cinquante-neuvième session
Point 9 de l'ordre du jour

QUESTION DE LA VIOLATION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME ET DES LIBERTÉS
FONDAMENTALES, OÙ QU'ELLE SE PRODUISE DANS LE MONDE

Lettre datée du 3 mars 2003, adressée à la Présidente de la Commission des droits
de l'homme par le Chargé d'affaires par intérim de la Mission permanente
de l'Azerbaïdjan auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève

Comme vous le savez, l'un des crimes les plus abominables commis contre le peuple azerbaïdjanais a été le massacre de centaines d'habitants innocents de la ville de Khodjaly, dans la région du Haut-Karabakh en Azerbaïdjan, ville qui a été prise d'assaut par les forces armées arméniennes et des groupes de mercenaires dans la nuit du 25 au 26 février 1992.

À cet égard, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire tenir ci-joint le texte de l'appel adressé par les habitants survivants de Khodjaly à l'Organisation des Nations Unies, au Conseil de l'Europe et à l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération en Europe à l'occasion du onzième anniversaire du génocide de Khodjaly, ainsi que le texte du communiqué de presse publié par la Mission permanente.

Je vous serais très reconnaissant de bien vouloir faire distribuer le texte de la présente lettre et de son annexe* comme document officiel de la cinquante-neuvième session de la Commission des droits de l'homme au titre du point 9 de l'ordre du jour, intitulé «Question de la violation des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales, où qu'elle se produise dans le monde[DB1]».

Le Chargé d'affaires par intérim
(Signé) Murad N. **Najafov**

* Reproduite telle quelle, uniquement dans la langue dans laquelle elle a été reçue.

Annex

P R E S S R E L E A S E

**THE ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF
GENOCIDE IN KHOJALY**

Eleven years past over that horrible night from 25 to 26 February 1992 when Armenian armed forces with support of 366th infantry guards regiment of the former Soviet Union captured Khojaly town in Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

About 2500 people remained in the city were forced to leave their houses in the hope to find the way to the nearest place mainly populated by Azerbaijanis. But they could not. Invaders destroyed Khojaly and with particular brutality implemented carnage over the peaceful population of the city.

Brutal annihilation of hundreds of blameless inhabitants of Khojaly was one of the most heinous crimes against the people of Azerbaijan. The armed forces of Armenia and mercenary units spared virtually none of those who had been unable to flee Khojaly and the surrounding area.

The world was horrified by the results of that merciless act of genocide:

613 persons were killed. Among those killed were 106 women, 83 children and 70 elderly people.

487 peaceful inhabitants including 76 children were more or less severely maimed.

1,275 peaceful inhabitants taken hostage. The fate of 150 persons remains unknown to this day.

6 families were completely wiped out, 26 children lost both parents, and 130 children one of their parents.

56 persons killed with particular cruelty: burned alive, scalped, beheaded, gouged out of eyes, some pregnant women were thrust bayonets into their abdomen.

Eleven years have passed since that terrible tragedy, which by its scale and features are in full conformity with the notion of genocide defined by provisions

set forth in the Convention "On Prevention and Punishment of Crime of Genocide" adopted by the UN General Assembly resolution 260 (III) dated December 9, 1948.

Those days foreign newspapers wrote the following:

«*Sunday Times*» newspaper (London), 1 March 1992: «Armenian soldiers annihilated the hundred families».

«*Times*» newspaper (London), 4 March 1992: «Many people were mutilated, and it was remained only the head of one little girl».

«*Izvestiya*» newspaper (Moscow), 4 March 1992: «...Cameraman showed the kids with the cut off ears. One old woman was cut off a half of her face. The men were scalped...».

«*Financial Times*» newspaper (London), 9 March 1992: «...Armenians shot down the column of refugees, fled to Aghdam».

«*Izvestiya*» newspaper (Moscow), 13 March 1992: «I saw about hundred dead bodies on the hill. One little boy was without head. Everywhere were the dead bodies of women, children, elders killed with particular brutality».

«*Le Mond*» newspaper (Paris), 14 March 1992: «...The foreign journalist in Aghdam saw the women and three scalped children with the pulled off nails among the killed people. This is not «Azerbaijani propaganda», bur reality».

Milli Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan declared 26 February as the "Day of Khojaly Genocide". Every year this day at 5 p.m. people of Azerbaijan reveres memory of Khojaly victims by minute of silence.

Geneva, 25 February 2003

**APPEAL
OF SURVIVED INHABITANTS OF KHOJALY TO
THE UNITED NATIONS, COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND OSCE**

Addressing the United Nations, Council of Europe and Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, we aim at bringing the truth on Khojaly genocide committed by Armenians at Nagorny Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan in February 1992 to the notice of the world community, and giving a legal-political assessment to this bloodshed.

Everybody who is more or less aware of the history of Azerbaijan knows that Khojaly, which is at the mountainous part of Nagorny Karabakh and exists since the III B.C., is one of the ancient settlements of Azerbaijan. The displays and unique historical memorials found during the archeological excavations around the city of Khojaly were evidence to that.

Having erected a monument to the 150 anniversary of their move from Iran to Nagorny Karabakh region of Azerbaijan in 1978, and aiming at achievement the idea of 'Great Armenia', the Armenians, in the last two centuries, have, with the assistance of their foreign patronages, pursued a policy of occupation against Azerbaijan, and attempting to implement their insidious plans for years have committed terror actions, carnages, deportation and genocide.

Numerous historical sources certify that millions of Azerbaijanis have in the Caucasus, their historical ethnic lands, undergone ethnic purge and genocide in 1905-1907, 1918-1920, 1948-1953, and were totally killed, or deported from their homelands. And, in 1988, Armenian territorial claims and Armenian separatism again rose and launched a new chauvinist campaign, without any historical, political, ethnic ground. In conclusion, in 1988-1989, over 250 thousand of Azerbaijanis were ousted from their historical lands in Armenia and hundreds of peaceful people were brutally killed. Thus, Armenia has turned to a mono-national republic.

Unfortunately, the groundless Nagorny Karabakh conflict, started in 1988, the Armenian aggression, the pain and bitterness of the innocent Azerbaijani victims were ignored by the then USSR leaders. To a great regret the world was indifferent too. Encouraging and taking advantage

by the situation, and following their genocide policy, the Armenians committed unseen historical crimes. 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory, including 7 surrounding regions of Azerbaijan were occupied by the Armenian armed forces, over one million of Azerbaijanis were savagely ousted from their lands, tens of thousand people were killed, tortured, taken hostages. Hundreds of settlements, villages, thousands of social and cultural objects, education and health institutions, historical and cultural monuments, mosques, sanctuaries, graveyards were leveled to ground by the Armenian vandals.

The massacres, terror acts and at last, the Khojaly genocide, committed by the Armenian militants in the early months of conflict in the settlements of Karkijahan, Meshali, Gushchular, Garadagli, Agdaban, other villages of Karabakh are historical crimes and response for them rests on those 'poor and vulnerable' Armenians.

Besides the world recognized tragedies of Khatin, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Songmi the mankind should be aware of the Khojaly genocide committed on 26 February 1992.

Over the night from 25 to 26 February 1992 the Armenian armed forces with the active participation of the 366th regiment stationed in Khankendi in Nagorny Karabakh, attacked on Khojaly, a city with 7 thousand Azerbaijani population. During the attack there remained about 3 thousand people. Prior to this, Khojaly had been blockaded by the Armenians for four months, so that population were experiencing major difficulties in obtaining medical supplies and food. There were many sick, wounded, old, as well as women and children in the city.

On that night Khojaly was leveled to the ground by the Armenian predators and their foreign mercenaries. The city was completely demolished and burned out by the heavy military equipment of the 366th regiment. Unarmed peaceful civil population underwent a barbaric attack – children, women, old and patients were killed by unbelievable atrocities. At the end of the XX century, the Armenians committed one historical crime – the Khojaly genocide - that can be perceived as a black shame for the civil community. The aim of this brutal action was total destroying of the city's population. However, by some lucky cases, many of Khojaly's population could survive. Those people survived to bear witness to the history.

As a result of the genocide in Khojaly, 613 people were killed and 1275 peaceful people were seized hostages. Up to date, 150 of them are

unaccounted for. Over one thousand of people were injured and disabled. 106 of the killed were women, 83 – children, 70 – old. 76 of the disabled are teenager boys and girls. As a result of this military crime, 6 families were completely annihilated, 25 children have lost both parents, and 130 children have lost one of the parents. 56 of the victims were burned alive, beheaded.

In the history, there is no analogue to these atrocities, committed by human being before the eyes of world community at the end of the XX century. But, the world should know and be aware: the authors of this historical crime are 'vulnerable and poor' Armenians.

With a feeling of pain but at the same time with a great hope, we have been addressing on behalf of the homeless and refugee survivors of Khojaly the peaceful people of world, the international organizations for the past eleven years. We appeal on your conscience not to remain indifferent to our fate, who underwent the Armenian military aggression and unseen atrocities. We do not believe that the competent international organizations as the United Nations, Council of Europe, Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe and powerful peace-loving nations cannot compel aggressive State – Armenia, throw down a challenge to the international community, to respect law and order.

We express our hope that the world community will condemn the aggression of the state of Armenia, and assist to restore the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, return over one million of refugees to their homelands, find a historically fair and peaceful solution to the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

We, the survivors of Khojaly, were deeply shocked by the terror attacks took place in the United States on 11 September 2001, which caused thousand losses of peaceful lives. We have lived the tragedy again, and were terrified. We lived the same horrors eleven years ago. And to day we still live in tents, carriages, hostels in hard conditions.

We, the survivors and eyewitnesses of the Khojaly tragedy, condemn any forms of genocide and terrorism against humanity, and hopefully recall on the United Nations, Council of Europe and OSCE, to bring to the notice of the world community the necessity of giving a political assessment to the Khojaly genocide.

We, the survivors of Khojaly, call on the peoples of world to jointly battle against aggression and aggressors for peace and security on earth. We call

on all the world states and governments, peaceful world organizations, to mobilize in the name of peace, security, welfare and prosperity for a free and happy society.

**Appeal was adopted at the
meeting of Khojaly refugees
on 15 February 2003
Baku**
