

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 26 February 2004 from the Permanent
Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General**

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the address of the Khojaly refugees to the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in connection with the twelfth anniversary of the Khojaly genocide committed by the Armenian forces on 26 February 1992 (see annex). I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 26 February 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Address of the refugees of Khojaly to the United Nations Organization, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Our aim in applying to the United Nations Organization, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which are influential international organizations of the world, is to bring the attention of the world community the truth about the Khojaly genocide committed by Armenians in the Nagorny-Karabakh region and to demand a legal-political evaluation of this bloody crime.

It is known to everybody who is at all familiar with the history of Azerbaijan that Khojaly, a town located in the mountainous part of Karabakh, is one of the oldest centres of population of Azerbaijanis. Rare exhibits and unique historical monuments found here during archaeological excavations are the visual evidence of that fact.

Armenians, who built a monument in 1978 devoted to the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of their exodus from Iran to Azerbaijan, carried out a consistent occupation policy against Azerbaijan, with the assistance of their foreign supporters, in order to implement the idea of establishing "Greater Armenia" at the expense of historical Azerbaijani territories, and from time to time perpetrated terrible and horrific offences, including mass slaughter, deportation and genocide, in order to achieve this insidious aim.

Numerous historical documents testify that in 1905-1907, 1918-1920 and 1948-1953 in the Caucasus, millions of Azerbaijanis who suffered from the policy of ethnic cleansing and genocide were massacred and subjected to deportation from their ancient lands.

Once again, since 1988 groundless territorial claims against Azerbaijani and Armenian separatism rose again and led to the instigation of conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh that had no historical, ethnic and political grounds. In 1988-1989, more than 250,000 Azerbaijanis living in their ancient lands in Armenia were subjected to deportation and hundreds of civilians were brutally killed. As a result, Armenia turned into the mono-ethnic country of which Armenians had been dreaming for years.

It is deplorable that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which began in 1988, the rule of Armenian reactionaries in the territories of Azerbaijan and the bitter agony of innocent Azerbaijani victims were met with indifferent silence by the former USSR leadership and the rest of the world. Inspired by and exploiting this situation, Armenians succeeded in the perpetration of genocide and unprecedented historical crimes against Azerbaijanis. Twenty per cent of Azerbaijan territories, including seven adjacent regions that are behind the Nagorno-Karabakh administrative division, were occupied by Armenian military units, more than one million Azerbaijanis were expelled from their ancient lands, and 10,000 people were killed, disabled and taken hostage. Hundreds of settlements, thousands of public and

cultural buildings, educational and medical establishments, historical and cultural monuments, mosques, shrines and cemeteries were destroyed and were subject to unprecedented Armenian vandalism.

In the first years of the conflict, tragedies, acts of terror and massacres in the Azerbaijan villages of Nagorno-Karabakh, such as Karkijahan, Meshali, Qushchular, Qaradagly, Agdaban and finally in Khojaly, are historical crimes that will remain on the conscience of the “humble and martyr Armenian” as a perpetual black spot.

We inform you with bitter regret that the Khojaly genocide of 26 February 1992 has been added to the series of such human tragedies as Khatin, Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Songmi.

On the night of 25 and 26 February 1992, Armenian military units, with the direct participation of the 366th regiment belonging to the former USSR and at that time located in Khankendi (Stepanakert) of the Nagorno-Karabakh region, attacked from five directions Khojaly town, where approximately 7,000 Azerbaijanis were living. (During the attack three thousand people were in the town.) Up to that time, Khojaly had been under siege for more than four months and people were suffering from lack of medical service and food. There were many sick, injured and old people, women and children in the town.

Ruthless Armenian brigands devastated Khojaly, with the assistance of their foreign supporters, that night. The town was destroyed and burnt with the help of the harsh military methods of the 366th regiment. The unarmed civil population was subjected to terrible massacre — children, women, old and sick people were brutally killed. At the end of the twentieth century, Armenians committed another historical crime — the Khojaly genocide which is a black spot for mankind. The purpose of this savage act was the massacre of all the population of the town. But by some chance, many Khojaly inhabitants survived to testify to history.

As a result of the Khojaly genocide, the latest genocide of Armenians against Azerbaijanis, 613 persons were massacred and 1,275 civilians were taken hostage. The fate of 150 of those persons is not known today. As a result of the tragedy, more than 1,000 civilians were injured with bullet wounds. Among those killed, 106 were women, 83 children and 70 old people; 76 of those invalided were children.

As a result of this political-military crime, six families were killed entirely, 25 children lost both parents and 130 children lost one of their parents. Fifty-six martyrs were burnt alive with especial severity and brutality, their heads scalped, skulls battered and eyes put out, while pregnant women's stomachs were slashed open with bayonets.

It is hard to imagine that such unprecedented cruelty and savagery committed by human beings took place in the twentieth century in the eyes of the world! But the world should take note: the author of this historical crime, targeted not only against Azerbaijanis but also against the whole of civilized humanity, is a “humble and martyr Armenian”.

For 12 years already, we, the population of Khojaly, who have been subjected to a refugee life, appealed with pain and also with great hope to all peaceful people of the world and international organizations. We request you not to treat indifferently and in a cold manner the disasters and griefs that we suffered from Armenian military aggression. We do not believe that the most influential

organizations of the world, such as the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe, as well as peaceful powerful countries, are not able to urge the aggressor State — Armenia — to respect justice and order.

We declare our confidence that the world community will denounce the military aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan and will assist the promotion of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, the return of the more than one million refugees to their native lands and the resolution of the Azerbaijan-Armenian conflict peacefully and on the basis of historical and political justice.

We, the population of Khojaly, witnessed the horrible tragedy of 11 September 2001 in the United States that resulted in the death of thousands of innocent people with deep grief. Although it is very painful, this awful universal tragedy returned us to the bloody day of 26 February 1992, because we and thousands of Azerbaijani refugees have suffered the disaster that took place in the United States in our own experience and today are living a difficult and desperate refugee life in wagons, tents, underground dwellings and cellars.

We, the population of Khojaly, who suffered one of the most horrible disasters of the twentieth century, call on all people of the world to struggle for peace and tranquillity. We call on all international organizations and peaceful, influential States of the world to mobilize to extinguish wars in the world, and struggle for peace and tranquillity, and a thriving and happy human society!

We, witnesses of Khojaly genocide who have survived as a result of a miracle, denouncing all forms of genocide and acts of terror against humanity, appeal once more to the United Nations, the Council of Europe, OSCE and the progressive world community, and bring to their attention the necessity for a legal-political evaluation of the Khojaly genocide.

Address adopted at a meeting of
Khojaly refugees, 12 February 2004

Baku, 12 February 2004
