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COMISIÓN DE DERECHOS HUMANOS
56º período de sesiones
Tema 9 del programa provisional

**CUESTIÓN DE LA VIOLACIÓN DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS
Y LAS LIBERTADES FUNDAMENTALES EN CUALQUIER
PARTE DEL MUNDO**

Carta de fecha 23 de febrero de 2000 dirigida a la secretaria de la Comisión de
Derechos Humanos por el Representante Permanente de Azerbaiyán
ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra

Tengo el honor de transmitir adjunto* un llamamiento dirigido a los pueblos del mundo, los Estados, los parlamentos y las organizaciones internacionales por los habitantes de la ciudad de Jozhaly con ocasión del octavo aniversario del genocidio en Jozhaly.

Le agradecería que distribuyera la presente carta y el mencionado llamamiento como documento oficial del 56º período de sesiones de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos en relación con el tema 9 del programa provisional.

(Firmado): Isfandiyar Vahabzada
Embajador
Representante Permanente

* El anexo se reproduce como se recibió, en inglés únicamente.

Annex

APPEAL

from the inhabitants of the district of Khojaly to the peoples of the world, States, parliaments and international organizations

To the human tragedies of Khatyn, Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Song My, reckoned as the most monstrous events of the twentieth century, was added on 26 February 1992 the Khojaly genocide.

On the night of 25 to 26 February 1992 the armed forces of Armenia, with the active participation of the 366th regiment of the former USSR, at that time stationed in the town of Hankendi in Nagorno-Karabakh, took by storm the town of Khojaly, whose population totalled 7,000 inhabitants. For the previous four months the town had been invested on all sides by the armed forces of Armenia, so that the population were experiencing major difficulties in obtaining medical supplies and food. There were in the town many sick, wounded and elderly persons, as well as women and children.

On that night frenzied Armenian bandits with the support of foreign mercenaries razed the town of Khojaly to the ground. With the help of the extensive heavy military equipment resources of the 366th regiment the town was completely demolished and burnt. No pity was shown to the peaceful civilian population - children, women, old people and the sick were bestially slaughtered. At the end of the twentieth century the Armenians perpetrated in the face of all mankind the next historical crime - the Khojaly genocide. The aim of the brutal butchers was the total annihilation of the town's population. By a lucky chance, however, many of Khojaly's inhabitants survived to bear witness to the event.

As in previous years we, witnesses left alive by a miracle at the time of the Khojaly genocide, are appealing with high hopes to all the progressive forces of mankind and to the competent international organizations in order to draw once again to the attention of the international community the importance of a political and legal assessment of this historic crime.

In the genocide perpetrated by the Armenians against the Azerbaijani people 613 persons were killed and 1,275 peaceful inhabitants taken hostage. The fate of 150 persons remains unknown to this day. In the course of the tragedy 487 peaceful inhabitants were more

or less severely maimed. Among those killed were 106 women and 83 young children. The maimed included 76 children not yet of age.

As a result of this war crime 6 families were completely wiped out, 26 children lost both parents, and 130 children one of their parents. Of those who perished, 56 persons were killed with especial cruelty: by burning alive, scalping, beheading, gouging out of eyes, and bayoneting of pregnant women in the abdomen.

These inhuman acts were committed in the face of all mankind at the end of the twentieth century by a people that claims to be "cultured" and "wronged".

The policy of unfounded territorial claims and ethnic cleansing conducted by Armenia against Azerbaijan did not end with the Khojaly genocide. Supported and instigated by their advocates from abroad, they have occupied 20 per cent of the territory of Azerbaijan and expelled over a million Azerbaijanis from their immemorial historical lands.

We refugees from Khojaly have already now for the past eight years been appealing to all peace-loving, international organizations. We appeal to you with aching hearts but also with high hopes. We implore you not to show lack of concern and indifference towards the sufferings and grief visited upon us as a result of Armenia's armed aggression. We do not believe that the competent international organizations and powerful peace-loving States cannot compel aggressive State – Armenia, throw down a challenge to the international community, to respect law and order.

It is our hope that the world community will condemn Armenia's armed aggression against Azerbaijan, express from the standpoint of the rules of international law its categorical and unequivocal opinion regarding Russia's supplying modern weapons of mass destruction to Armenia, and assist in the restoration of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the return of over a million refugees to their own homes.

The President of the Azerbaijani Republic, G.A. Aliyev, consistently declares at all international events and meetings that Azerbaijan advocates peaceful settlement of problems. We believe that the world community and the international organizations will take effective measures for the realization of the noble intentions of the President of Azerbaijan and the triumph of just peace in the region.

The people of Khojaly, who have lived through one of the most nightmarish tragedies of the twentieth century, call upon the peoples of the world to unite in the struggle for peace and tranquillity. We looking

anxiously towards all the international organizations and to peace-loving, responsible States, appeal for a mobilization of efforts to put an end to wars and begin striving for a happy community of humankind in which there would be no war, development would progress and well-being would flourish.

Baku, 3 February 2000