



Press release

31st Anniversary of Khojaly Genocide: Azerbaijan Commemorates the Innocent Victims

On February 26, 2023, Azerbaijan remembers the tragic events of the Khojaly genocide. The brutal massacre, which took place during the decades-long conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, remains one of the darkest chapters in Azerbaijan's history. This year marks the 31st anniversary of the tragedy.

The Armenian armed forces, with the help of the former USSR's 366th Motorized Rifle Regiment, mostly comprised of Armenians, launched a premeditated attack on the town of Khojaly, Azerbaijan. The attack began on the night of February 25-26, 1992, following massive artillery bombardment. As a result of the occupation, over 5,000 inhabitants were forcefully expelled. 613 people, including children, women, and elderly citizens, were brutally murdered, and 1,275 were captured and taken hostage.

The Khojaly genocide, along with other crimes committed by Armenia during its aggression against Azerbaijan, including war crimes and crimes against humanity, violates international humanitarian and human rights law.

Despite the national legislative bodies of 18 countries, 24 States of the USA, numerous international organizations adopting a number of resolutions and decisions condemning the massacre of civilians in Khojaly, none of those responsible for the crimes committed at Khojaly have been prosecuted by Armenia. This is a blatant violation of international law, and the Republic of Azerbaijan believes that continuous measures taken at the national level as well as under international law will serve to end impunity and bring to justice those responsible for serious crimes committed during Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan calls on the international community to condemn the Khojaly genocide and to support its efforts to ensure justice for the victims and their families. The Azerbaijani people will continue to remember and honor the innocent victims of the Khojaly tragedy.

Rest in Peace!

**Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Brussels
26 February 2023**