



**Embassy
of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Malaysia**

25th anniversary of the Khojaly Genocide

This year the Azerbaijani people commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide, one of the most horrible tragedies of the 20th century.

On the night of 25 to 26 February 1992, the armed forces of Armenia, with the support of irregular armed bands and terrorist groups, as well as with the direct participation of the infantry guards regiment No. 366 of the former USSR, seized Khojaly, a town in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and perpetrated atrocious massacre of the civilian population of the town. As a result, 613 civilians, including 106 women and 63 children, were killed, 1275 were taken hostage and 150 went missing. Moreover, 487 civilians, including 76 children, were severely maimed. 6 families were completely wiped out, 26 children lost both parents, and 130 children lost one of their parents. Of those who perished, 56 persons were killed with special cruelty: by burning alive, scalping, beheading, gouging out eyes and bayoneting pregnant women in the abdomen.

The brutal annihilation of the innocent inhabitants of Khojaly was documented by Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, the Moscow-based human rights group Memorial, The New York Times, Newsweek, The Washington Post, The Sunday Times, The Times, Agence France Presse, Le Monde, Izvestiya and other human rights and media organizations. Human Rights Watch in its relevant report described the events in Khojaly as “the largest massacre to date in the conflict”. Memorial stated: “The mass killing of civilians in Khojaly could not be justified under any circumstances, and the actions of Armenian militants were in gross violation of basic international human rights conventions.”

The Khojaly massacre was a deliberate act of mass murder carried out as part of Armenia’s policy of aggression and ethnic cleansing. This tragedy is one of the most serious crimes not only against the people of Azerbaijan, but humanity as a whole.

Ever since, Azerbaijan has striven for the Khojaly massacre to be recognized by the international community and the perpetrators of this crime to be brought to justice. At the initiative of Leyla Aliyeva, Vice President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and General Coordinator for Intercultural Dialogue of the Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC), Justice for Khojaly international awareness campaign was launched in May 2008

In its judgement of April 22, 2010, the European Court of Human Rights arrived at an important conclusion with respect to the crime committed in Khojaly, qualifying the behaviour of those carrying out the incursion as “acts of particular gravity which may

amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity". Fourteen countries as well as twenty U.S. States have recognized and condemned the Khojaly massacre.

25 years have passed since the Khojaly genocide, but the perpetrators of this crime against humanity have yet to be brought to justice. Moreover, as a result of Armenia's total disregard of international law and international condemnation, the illegal occupation of 20 percent of Azerbaijan's internationally recognized territory - the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven adjacent districts - still continues, and over one million Azerbaijani refugees and IDPs remain uprooted.

Azerbaijan will continue to strive for justice for the Khojaly tragedy. The Azerbaijani people call on the international community to give political and legal assessment to this heinous crime.

Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Malaysia

