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### KHOJALY: PROPAGANDA THROUGH TRAGEDY

ne night of February 26, 1992, armed units from the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (NKR) started a military operation to take out artillery positions and bring an end to the blockade of Khojaly airport. That same night, 12 kilometres away from Khojaly, in the area near the town of Aghdam, peaceful residents were found dead.

Until today, the Azerbaijani authorities have used their version of the events near Aghdam (so called "the events of Khojaly") to incite ethnic hatred and racism [towards Armenians]. However, their version of events has been disputed on the basis of factual evidence by, first of all, numerous Azerbaijani sources, as well as by independent observers.

### THE SITUATION IN THE MILITARY CONFLICT ZONE

In 1935, the first Azeri family moved to the entirely Armenian-populated village of Khojaly in the former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast; by 1969, the last Armenian family had moved away from there.

In 1992, Azerbaijan blockaded all routes to the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (NKR); the region was left without fuel, electricity, water, and food supplies. Since November 1991, Stepanakert and adjacent Armenian communities had been under daily massive artillery fire. The shelling of the NKR capital city was carried out using "Alazan" — and "Kristal" combat rocket launchers as well as BM-21 'Grad' Multiple Launcher Rocket System vehicles, the use of which is prohibited against civilians.

# Lala-Shovket Gajiyeva, State Secretary, Republic of Azerbaijan:

"For more than 100 days we were shelling Stepanakert, but the Armenians did not abandon their homes"

Source: Azerbaijani State Television, 24, July 1994

# Anzhelika Chechina, Russian Journalist and Human Rights' Activist:

"January 21–25 I was in Stepanakert. The city still had no electricity or water. Water is obtained Water is so difficult to obtain that drinking tea is disgraceful'. There are no products to trade for food stamps. There are cases of hunger edema in the city. Stepanakert reminds me of documentaries about the Nazi-blockade of Leningrad."

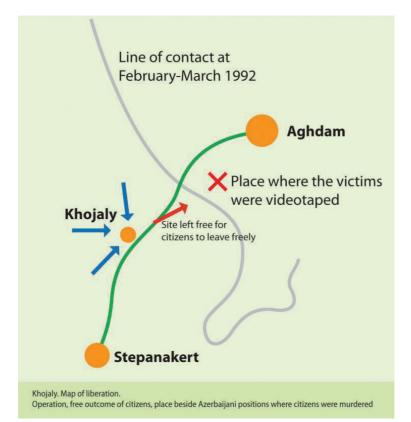
Source: 'Novoe Vremya' Magazine, Issue 8, 1992 (Russia)

### From the Report of Human Rights Center "Memorial", Russia:

"In the town of Shahumyanovsk, on 13 June 1992, Azerbaijan used for the first time 'Grad' Multiple Launcher Rocket System vehicles... From February, the 'Grad' launchers started to be used against Stepanakert's residential areas. This resulted in massive damage to the city and practically forced the residents to live in basements."

> Source: http://www.memo.ru/hr/hotpoints/karabah/ HOJALY/CHAPTER1.HTM

Khojaly, the location of Nagorno-Karabakh's sole airport, was one of six positions being used in the months-long offensive on Stepanakert. The only way of saving the inhabitants from the fate decreed for them by the authorities in Baku — that they die from cold and hunger — was to launch a military operation aimed at bringing an end to the siege and heavy artillery fire.



### THE HUMANITARIAN CORRIDOR — WHY WAS AN EVACUATION OF PEACEFUL CIVILIANS NOT ORGANISED?

The military operation to neutralize artillery positions in Khojaly was taken in keeping with the norms of international humanitarian law. Two months before the military action commenced, commanders in the Nagorno-Karabakh Defence Army used various channels to publicly announce to Khojaly's civilian and military leaders the existence of a humanitarian corridor and a procedure for using it. At the start of the operation, in addition to the 3,000 civilians in the town, there were also several hundred Azeri fighters.

#### Elman Mamedov, Khojaly Town Mayor:

"At 8:30 pm on February 25, we received information that armoured cars and infantry fighting vehicles had taken up combat positions in the vicinity of the town. We made this known to everyone by radio. (Moreover, on February 24 I had telephoned Aghdam to inform them that an Armenian soldier we had captured told of a planned attack... But I received no response). I asked for helicopters to be sent to get the elderly, women and children out of the area. Help never arrived..."

Source: 'Khojaly: Chronicle of Genocide.' Azerbaijani State Publishing Company. Baku, 1993, p.16

"We knew that the corridor was intended for evacuating civilians" Source: "Russkaya misl" [Russian Mind], 3 March 1992 (Russia)

#### Salman Abbasov, Khojaly resident:

"A few days before the tragedy took place, the Armenians repeatedly warned by radio that they were going to advance on the town and urged us to leave. For some time, helicopters did not arrive in Khojaly — we were left wondering whether anyone cared about our plight. Furthermore, when it became possible to evacuate women, children and the elderly, they dissuaded us from doing so."

> Source: 'Khojaly: Chronicle of Genocide.' Azerbaijani State Publishing Company. Baku, 1993,s, p. 31

## Ayaz Mutalibov, First President of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

"...the corridor, by which people could escape, had nonetheless been left by the Armenians. So, why did they have to open fire? Especially in the area around Aghdam, where there was sufficient force at that time to get help to the people."

Source: 'Nezavisimaya Gazetta', 2 April 1992 (Russia)

## **Ramiz Fataliev, Chair of the Committee Investigating the Events of Khojaly:**

"Four days left until the events of Khojaly. On February 22, in the presence of the President, the Prime Minister, the Head of the KGB and others, a National Security Council session took place at which a decision was taken not to evacuate people from Khojaly. Thus, we ourselves incited the Armenians to attack; the members of the Security Council were convinced that the Armenians would not be capable of carrying out actions similar to genocide."

Source: http://www.azadliq.org/content/article/1818751.html

### Eynulla Fatullayev, Azeri Journalist:

"Having seen location, I can firmly state that the assumptions about the absence of an Armenian humanitarian corridor were without grounds. The corridor certainly existed otherwise the surrounded Khojaly residents, completely cut off from the outside world, would never have been able to break through the blockade... I have talked with hundreds of refugees who have assured me that the corridor existed and that their survival depended upon it."

Source: "The Karabakh Diary" in the newspaper "Realny Azerbaijan", April 2005 (Azerbaijan)

### Tamerlan Karayev, Chair of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

"...I have approached the President and [relevant] authorities and requested that necessary measures be undertaken. Every 2–3 hours they assured me that helicopters were already arriving in Aghdam from Baku"

> Source: "Zerkalo" Newspaper, 4 April 1992 (Azerbaijan)

## From the Report of Human Rights Center "Memorial", Russia:

"The planned evacuation of the people of Khojaly never happened. That's a fact. It never happened — even though the Khojaly authorities and Azerbaijani commanders knew that a humanitarian corridor had been provided."

> Source: http://www.memo.ru/hr/hotpoints/karabah/HOJALY/ CHAPTER1.HTM

For various reasons, some 734 residents of Khojaly did not leave the city. After Khojaly was captured, they were taken by the Armenian side to Stepanakert and on February 28 were unconditionally transferred to the Azeri side.

# From the Report of Human Rights Center "Memorial", Russia:

"According to information received from both sides, on 28 March 1992 more than 700 Khojaly residents were handed over to the Azeri side. They had been captured in the town itself and along the road to Aghdam and were mostly women and children."

Source: http://www.memo.ru/hr/hotpoints/karabah/HOJALY/ CHAPTER1.HTM

### WHERE AND WHY DID PEACEFUL RESIDENTS DIE ?

#### Suleiman Abbasov, a Defender of Khojaly:

"Along with some of the residents of Khojaly, I reached the village of Nakhijevanik, hoping to find refuge there. Earlier we had been informed by radio from Aghdam that the village had been taken from the [Armenian] fighters."

Source: 'Khojaly: Chronicle of Genocide.' Azerbaijani State Publishing Company. Baku 1993, pp.31–32

### Zaur Kadimbekov:

"...The people in Aghdam clearly tricked the Khojaly residents when they sent them in the direction of the Armenian village of Nakhijevanik, thus provoking a clash with the Armenian soldiers defending the village"

Source: 'The Khojaly Tragedy', Pravda, 7 March 1992 (Russia);

see also 'Khojaly: Chronicle of Genocide.' Azerbaijani State Publishing Company. Baku 1993, p.29 (Azerbaijan)

### **Eynulla Fatullayev:**

"Khojaly residents themselves insist that they did use the corridor and that the Armenian soldiers, on the other side of the corridor, did not open fire. Some soldiers from the Azerbaijani Popular Front evacuated some of the Khojaly residents in the direction of the village of Nakhijevanik — I have no idea why since it was under the control of the Armenian Askeran Battalion at the time. Others were caught in artillery fire in the area around Aghdam."

Source: "The Karabakh Diary" in the newspaper "Realny Azerbaijan", April 2005 (Azerbaijan)

On February 29, Azerbaijani television broadcast pictures of the bodies of the dead Khojaly residents in the area around Aghdam. Further pictures followed on March 2 — the same bodies, now degraded and disfigured.

### WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BODIES AND WHO NEEDED THE DEATH OF PEACEFUL CIVILIANS?

#### Dana Mazalova, Czech Journalist:

"In mid March of 1992, Azeri cameraman and journalist Chingiz Mustafayev showed me in his Baku apartment unedited footage that he had taken in February in the area around Aghdam. This footage bore no resemblance to the images that were being presented to the world by Azerbaijan. Chingiz had flown there himself by helicopter and brought back some bodies for burial — bodies of Meskhet-Turks that were lying 5 km from Aghdam, all in one piece and fully dressed. The area was under Azeri control, and among the bodies Chingiz noticed someone in military uniform who was not frightened away by the Azerbaijani helicopter. When Mustafavev returned to the remaining bodies a few days later, he was shocked to find that the heads had been scalped... In Mustafayev's video footage there were no naked women and children, nor scalped men. But I clearly remembered that the dead had been shot in the knees. Mustafayev had previously trained as a doctor and so he immediately understood that these people had died slowly and painfully, bleeding to death. Moreover, it seemed indisputable that they had been shot at close range, with their knee-caps as the target. These people were killed intentionally. Who did it and why, I cannot say."

Source: http://www.golosarmenii.am/ru/19958/world/2203/

#### Arif Yunosov, Azeri Human Rights' Activist

"The town and its inhabitants were consciously sacrificed for a political cause; not to allow the Azerbaijani Popular Front come to power."

Source: 'Zerkalo' Newspaper, July 1992 (Azerbaijan)

#### Yakub Mamedov, Chair of the Supreme Council in 1992 and Acting President of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

"In an interview with a correspondent from Azerbaijani television, Yakub Mamedov stated that those on whose conscience lies the tragedy of Khojaly have bravely made themselves known to him. He was not talking about the Armenian side."

Source: 'Ogonyok' Magazine, Issue 14–15, 1992 (Russia)

#### Elman Mamedov, Khojaly Town Mayor:

"We don't know who to attribute this atrocity to; we don't know whose history will find the guilty party in this matter..."

> Source: video interview taken by Chingiz Mustafayev, available at http://xocali.net/RU/Mamedov-Mustafayev.html

In taking photos and footage of the Kosovo conflict, earthquakes, foreign refugees and other events and presenting them as scenes from Khojaly, the Azerbaijani authorities have been engaged in unprecedented fabrication and falsification of evidence. The above independent analyses and sources relating to the February 1992 events near Aghdam are presented on a website (www.xocali. net) created in 2010 by the *Xenophobia Prevention Initiative* NGO.

The Azerbaijani propaganda machine's efforts to avoid taking responsibility for massacres against Armenians in Sumgait, Baku, Maragha and other settlements and to use as anti-Armenian propaganda the tragic events provoked by themselves will surely fail. Sooner or later those truly responsible for the crimes committed at Khojaly will be exposed and brought to justice.



Here is an illustration of "the brutality of Armenians", the sufferings of a mother, dead children, etc. However, a validity check showed that the illustrated events took place in 1983, during the destructive earthquake in Turkey.





This very photograph can be found in many other sites on Khojaly matters.

The exchange of fire took place at night on 25–26-th of February, 1992, and in the morning of 2-th of March the corpses were picked up and taken away (and, judging by the sequences of the video-chronicle, there were about 30 or 40 bodies there).

A question rises from here: how could the bodies "become skeletons" within several cold nights, if for the human body and clothes to decay, at least 100 years are required?





Zurna.azersayt.com, in the role of "victims" of Khojaly, contrived to offer neither more nor less than... killed members of Hamas.



The Khojaly events are illustrated with photographs of pogroms in the Balkans which happened in 1999.

The tragedy in Khojaly has deeply hurt the heart of every Azerbaijani living in different countries of the world and will never be forgotten. The genocide committed by Armenian nationalists against Azerbaijanis in Khojaly has resulted in death of hundreds of innocent people. Khojaly tragedy is one of the most horrible crimes committed against humanity in XX century. I wish no nation to undergo such a tragedy in its history...

> Mehriban Aliyeva, President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO





t and have taken prisoner

the world culture.



Armenian millitary forces commited genocides in the to thousand people on februrary 26 1992. There were 3 th Armenian millitary forces' attack As most part of the months blockade. 613 people were killed, 1000 peacefu during Khojaly genocide. 106 women, 63 children, 70 completely annihilated, 130 children lost one parents, residents were taken hostages, the fate of 150 of them is

All these were commited by Armeninan militaries with barbarism. 2nd battalion of 366th regiment under the Mushegovich ("defence minister" of illegal regime in I battalion under the command of Yevgeniy Nabokhin,

Valeriy and more than 50 officers and ensigns, serving in regiment took part in the a concerning Khojaly occupation").

A part of town residents, attempted to flee, were killed by Armeninans, waiting in ambulshes. According to the Russian remidial centre "Memopaza", 200 corpses had b brought from Jodjali to Agdam for 4 days, tens of humiliation facts has been discove on them. 181 corpses (130 men and 51 women) were made forensic medical examinar in Aghdam. According to the examination 151 persons dead in result of bullet wound, ? missile wound, 10 people were killed with blunt instrument. Remidial centre discove fact of scalping of alive man.

Episodes of Khojaly genocide terrify people. Antiga, the resident of Khojaly, was bur alive because she did not say "these places are part of Great Armenia". Khojaly resic Sariya Talibova told: "heads of 4 meskhetis and 3 Azeris were cut off over Armer grave. Then they extracted eyes of 2 Azeris".

Armenians outraged upon survors. They scalped, cut people's head and other organs stomaches of pregnant women. Forbidden bullets of 5,45 calibre and chemical we attack. All these facts prove that Armenia commited genocide against civil people, concerning war rules









Guerre-kosovo « Précédent | Suivant »





Terrible photograph...

However, it has nothing to do with the Khojaly events as it is an illustration of the events of 1978, when the worst in a series of pogroms of Alevis (Turkish Shi'ites, who generally supported the political left), organized by the "Grey Wolves", left 111 people dead.

