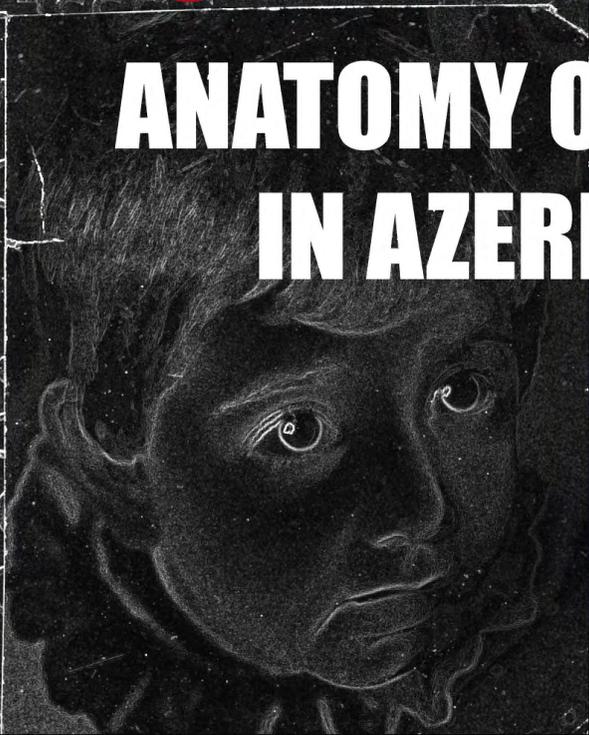




THE SUMGAIT SYNDROME.



**ANATOMY OF RACISM
IN AZERBAIJAN**

UDC 32.019.5+323.1
BBC 66.5(0)

Published:
“MIA” PUBLISHERS

ISBN 978-5-9986-0101-9



WARNING:
SOME OF THE PHOTOS
IN THIS BOOK ARE HORRIFIC.
VIEWERS DISCRETION IS ADVISED.

Copyright © 2012, Against Xenophobia
and Violence, NGO

Yerevan, Republic of Armenia

E-mail: axv.ngo@gmail.com

againstxenophobiaandviolence@gmail.com

All rights reserved.

THE SUMGAI SYNDROME.

**ANATOMY
OF RACISM
IN AZERBAIJAN**



Note. The killings and violence against Armenians were followed by pogroms in various cities and towns of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan (Republic of Azerbaijan since 1992) in Sumgait, Ganja (Kirovabad), Khanlar, Shamkhor, Baku, Maragha and other places.

SUMGAIT. **27–29.02.1988**

Sumgait is 26 kilometres from Azerbaijan’s capital, Baku, and was home to some 18,000 Armenians in 1988. On 26 and 27 February 1988, demonstrations were organised in Sumgait under the slogan “Death to Armenians!” What took place on the streets of Azerbaijan during the following three days has been referred to ever since with the horrific name of “Sumgait”.

The massacre of Armenians in Sumgait, February 27–29, were merely a continuation of the Azerbaijani authorities’ unswerving policy of racism towards Armenians and ethnic cleansing of the Armenian population, with unpunished killings and deportations.

SUMGAIT. 27–29.02.1988



Caption. A building in Sumgait in February 1988. The broken windows of flats belonging to Armenians bear traces of fire.

“Izvestia” Newspaper, 20.08.1988:

“On February 27, a crowd of many thousands had gathered in Lenin Square... They began calling for attacks on anyone who belonged to the Armenian race... In different parts of town, groups of youths started to assault all who were ethnically Armenian.”

Thomas de Waal, Journalist, Senior Associate at the Carnegie Endowment:

“Gangs, ranging in size from about a dozen to more than fifty, roamed around, smashing windows, burning cars, but above all looking for Armenians to attack... The roving gangs committed acts of horrific savagery. Several victims were so badly mutilated by axes that their bodies could not be identified. Women were stripped naked and set on fire. Several were raped repeatedly.”

Source. Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan Through Peace and War, 2003.

Victor Krivopuskov, Writer and Diplomat, Russia:

“They were killing people in their own homes, although they would often bring them out into the street or yard to publicly mock them. Occasionally, people died instantly when attacked with axes or knives. But most were killed in torturous humiliation — they were beaten until they lost consciousness, or they were burned alive. Neither children nor the elderly were spared.”

Source. Mutinous Karabagh, see <http://armenianhouse.org/krivopuskov/karabakh/166-212.html#5>



Lola Avagyan, born in 1961.

Place of residence: Sumgait, block 45, 10/13, apt. 37.

On February 29th, 1988 after her apartment was attacked, Avagyan was undressed and taken to the street. The brainwashed and wild crowd made her dance, stabbed her with knives, cut her breast, burned her body with lit cigarettes, and raped her. After death the body was mutilated; relatives recognized her by the little finger. Her father, Pavel Manvelyan, said he had been in three morgues in Sumgait, Baku and Mardakyans (20 km away from Baku),

and found the body of his daughter in Mardakyans; she was number 71 among other corpses. Pavel Manvelyan testified in Moscow and signed the testimony. He has seen more than 100 piled dead bodies in three morgues. L. Avagyan was 6th months pregnant.



Dmitry Yazov, USSR Minister of Defense:

“The breasts of two women have been cut off, another’s head, and a young girl has been skinned. Military trainees were passing out when they saw how the Armenian bodies had been tortured.”

Source: Shorthand notes dated 29 February 1988 from a session of the USSR Central Committee Bureau, published in “Rodina” magazine, Issue 14, 1994, Moscow.

Thomas de Waal:

“The brutality [of the rioters in Sumgait] was a painful contrast to the more peaceful demonstrations in Armenia.”

Source. Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan Through Peace and War, 2003.



Emma Grigoryan, born in 1930 in the village of Armyanskie Borisy, Shahumyan region. Place of residence: Sumgait, 3 micro district, 5/2, apt. 45. Naked, she was taken to the street from the 4th floor and set on a bench in front of the doorway. They burnt cigarettes on her body, raped her, smashed her head, broke the ribs, stuck a metal pipe into her vagina. “Shock, hemorrhage, rupture of posterior wall of vagina, rectum wall injury, retroperitoneal haematoma, fracture of II–VI right bones and X thoracic vertebra.”



Caption. Victims of Sumgait massacre.



THE ORGANISED NATURE OF THE MASSACRES: “THE ARMENIAN POGROMS WERE INSTIGATED BY THE LOCAL MAFIA”

George Soros, USA:

“The speculations that the first pogroms against Armenians in Azerbaijan were instigated by the local mafia, which was controlled by former KGB chief G.A. Aliyev, are not far from reality.”

Source. The Gorbachev Conception, “Znamya” magazine, 1989 Issue 6, Moscow.

Eyewitness Valeria Kozubenko:

“The thugs who invaded our apartment were armed with rods, with pieces attached, and huge knives. The metal rods were all the same length, as if they had been specially cut. The thugs, without exception, were clothed in black and almost entirely youths... On the 28th, our telephones had been cut.”

Source. Minutes from a session of the USSR Supreme Court’s Criminal Investigation into the events of Sumgait, October–November 1988, Moscow.

Eyewitness Guliev:

“The attackers had 70cm long rods, with pieces attached, which seemed to have been specially made for the pogroms. There were no police in town... the telephone lines were down... rocks had been brought... those pogroms were not organised in the space of one day; they had been preparing for them for a long time.”

Source. Minutes from a session of the USSR Supreme Court’s Criminal Investigation into the events of Sumgait, October–November 1988, Moscow.

(d) Joint resolution replacing Docs. B2-538 and 587/88

RESOLUTION

on the situation in Soviet Armenia

The European Parliament,

A. having regard to the recent public demonstrations in Soviet Armenia demanding that the Nagorno-Karabakh region be reunited with the Republic of Armenia,

B. having regard to the historic status of the autonomous region of Nagorno-Karabakh (80 % of whose present population is Armenian) as part of Armenia, to the arbitrary inclusion of this area within Azerbaijan in 1923 and to the massacre of Armenians in the Azerbaijani town of Sumgait in February 1988,

C. whereas the deteriorating political situation, which has led to anti-Armenian pogroms in Sumgait and serious acts of violence in Baku, is in itself a threat to the safety of the Armenians living in Azerbaijan,

1. Condemns the violence employed against Armenian demonstrators in Azerbaijan;
2. Supports the demand of the Armenian minority for reunification with the Socialist Republic of Armenia;
3. Calls on the Supreme Soviet to study the compromise proposals from the Armenian delegates in Moscow suggesting that Nagorno-Karabakh be temporarily governed by the central administration in Moscow, temporarily united to the Federation of Russia or temporarily placed under the authority of a 'presidential regional government';
4. Calls also upon the Soviet authorities to ensure the safety of the 500 000 Armenians currently living in Soviet Azerbaijan and to ensure that those found guilty of having incited or taken part in the pogroms against the Armenians are punished according to Soviet law;
5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Government of the Soviet Union.

Source. Official Journal of the European Communities, No. C94/117, July 1988.

Eyewitness Guliev:

“Case evidence confirms that, on 27 and 28 February 1988 in Sumgait, internal affairs’ bodies were inactive — they were passive observers of a blatant breach of law and order, failing to respond to the numerous reports of rioting in the city, failing to take action against the killing and plundering of Armenians.”

Source. Minutes from a session of the USSR Supreme Court’s Criminal Investigation into the events of Sumgait, October–November 1988, Moscow.

Thomas de Waal:

“It was several hours before a regiment of Soviet Interior Ministry troops and cadets from the military academy in Baku arrived, only to be confronted by a furious mob... The young soldiers were under instruction from Moscow to fire blanks rather than live rounds. The rioters threw Molotov cocktails and lunged with their sharpened metal casings at the soldiers, stabbing them in the legs. A hundred or so soldiers were wounded.”

Source. Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan Through Peace and War, 2003.

Soviet law enforcement forces only stepped in on the third day, February 29, when the most horrific killings of Armenians were taking place and the attackers had started to assault soldiers.



Yersilya Movsesova, born in 1902 in Martuni region of Nagorno-Karabakh. Lived in Baku. She was killed in Sumgait, 3 Micro District, 6/2A, apt 18.

“Cerebral hemorrhage, fracture of cranial bones, multiple rib fracture, blunt head and body trauma.” Among other wounds 31 knife wounds were recorded.

СВИДЕТЕЛЬСТВО О СМЕРТИ
ВЛУМ НАГЫНДА ШААДОТНАМ

Гражданин (ка) *Мовсисова* Фамилия - Фамилия
 Имя *Ярсилья* Имя - Фамилия
 Дата рождения *28 февраля 1902 года* Место рождения - *Мартуни*
 Умер (ка) *девятая* (цифрами) - *девятая*
 в возрасте *86* лет, о чем в книге регистрации актов о смерти (цифрами) - *86*
 10 *11* года *июня* месяца *1988* года
 в китебханда *№ 600* книжки
 произведена запись за № *600* книжки

Причина смерти *кровоизлияние в мозг, переломы*
 Внутренние органы *кости черепа, многочисленные переломы*
ребер, грудной клетки, живота и таза

Место смерти город (село) *Сумгаит*
 Внутренний район (уезд) _____
 район _____
 область, край _____
 республика _____
 республика _____
 Место регистрации *отдел ЗАГС Марталинского*
 район _____
 область _____
 республика _____
 район _____
 область _____
 республика _____

Дата выдачи *10.11.88*
 Верил(а) *И. И. И.*
 Подпись *И. И. И.*
 Подпись *И. И. И.*

111-ЖГ № 425370

МТ Голланд. 1986. Азербайджанская ИА.



“IT HASN'T BEEN POSSIBLE TO ASCERTAIN THE REAL NUMBER OF VICTIMS”

Officially released number of Armenians killed in Sumgait was 32, hundreds became disabled and scores went missing. Around 18,000 Armenians fled the town, leaving behind their homes and possessions. However, numerous sources indicate that the number of deaths was significantly higher.

Andrei Konchalovsky, Film Director:

“In the industrial town of Sumgait more than a hundred Armenians were killed in just one night.”

Source. “Heydar Aliyev: Burden of Power”, a documentary film, commissioned by Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Azerbaijan.

Victor Krivopuskov, Writer and Diplomat, Russia:

“In the space of three days, several hundred Armenians were killed. It hasn't been possible to ascertain the exact death toll.”

Source. *Mutinous Karabagh*, see: <http://armenianhouse.org/krivopuskov/karabakh/166-212.html#5>



An Armenian's home ravaged in Sumgait. Although apartments belonging to Armenians were quick to be looted and grabbed in all cities of Azerbaijan where massacres took place, the first objective of the mobs at the time of the pogroms was to make impossible the return of those Armenians who survived.



MOCK TRIALS

Mikhail Gorbachev arranged that the mass killings that took place in Sumgait were characterized as “groups of hooligans out to commit acts of hooliganism.” Thus, a crime directed from an organised, unified base was reduced to individual criminal cases, most of which were transferred to the jurisdiction of Azerbaijani courts. Only one of the eighty convicted was sentenced to death; the rest received prison sentences of a few years, many with parole. The organisers of the crime have not yet been revealed.

Ilias Ismailov, Azerbaijan SSR Prosecutor General in 1988:

“Those responsible for inciting the pogroms [in Sumgait], now sit in Milli Majlis (Azerbaijani Parliament) with parliamentary mandates in their pockets.”

Source. “Zerkalo” Newspaper, Azerbaijan, 21 February 2003.

Frank Pallone, member of the House of Representatives, USA:

“These crimes were never adequately prosecuted by the government of Azerbaijan, and most of its organizers and executors were set free.”

Source. Statement to the US House of Representatives, 28 February 2006, available at: http://www.anca.org/press_releases/press_releases.php?prid=905

Andrei Sakharov, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate:

“If anyone was in doubt before Sumgait whether Nagorno-Karabakh should belong to Azerbaijan, then after this tragedy no one can have the moral right to insist that it should.”

Source. From the letter of A. Sakharov addressed to M. Gorbachev, August 1988, published in “Nezavisimaya gazeta”, 27.10.1992 (Russia).

BAKU.

13–19.01.1990

In 1988, approximately 250,000 Armenians were living in Baku. From the very beginning of the Karabakh Movement (February 1988), Armenians in Baku spoke out for a peaceful and constitutional resolution to the conflict; they could never have imagined the level of racist brutality and the premeditated large-scale ethnic cleansings against Armenians living in Azerbaijan before the start of the armed hostilities in Nagorno-Karabakh. By January 1990, just 35,000 Armenians were left in Baku — mostly the elderly, the infirm and children.

BAKU. 13–17.01.1990



Caption. Victims of the Baku pogroms.



CHRONICLE: WAYS OF GETTING EVEN

Vagif Huseynov, Azerbaijani KGB Chief (1989–1991):

“The Baku riots had been planned in detail by the Popular Front. On New Year’s Eve, the State Border with Iran was destroyed by the masses; and, on January 11 the pogroms started in Baku. About 40 mobs (with 50–300 people in each) roamed the city.”

Source: “Moskovskiy Komsomolec” Newspaper, 6 February 2004.

“Izvestia” Newspaper, 15.01.1990:

“After 5 pm on 13 January 1990, about 50,000 people left the rally in Lenin Square, split into groups and launched the pogrom — with destruction, arson, rape and killing...”

Kirill Smolyarov:

“Many of the pogroms were executed with particular cruelty. On January 14 one group of around 30–40 people broke into the apartment of the Torosyans — an elderly couple, who had two elderly relatives staying with them; the criminals assaulted them all, seized 3,500 rubles, and forced them, along with their neighbour Arutyunova, out of the city, where they poured petrol on them and set them alight.”

Source. “Collapse; from Nagorno-Karabakh to the Be-lovezhskaya Pushcha” , Moscow, OLMA-Press, 2001.

Radio Liberty, 15 January 1990, 06:46:

“Russians living in the capital city of Azerbaijan recall with horror scenes of retribution — how their neighbours were shot at point-blank range, thrown off balconies, burned alive and even dismembered by a fanatical Azeri mob.”

BAKU 13-17.01.1990



The map of the Armenian pogroms in Baku. Copies of this map were handed to the mobsters; the crosses mark the spots where the Armenian population inhabited — a clear sign of the premeditated nature of the crime.

THE ORGANISED NATURE OF THE POGROMS & THE GUILTY INACTION OF THE AUTHORITIES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT BODIES

As a guide for the violence and massacres, attackers had been given maps of Baku marked with crosses to show areas that were densely populated by Armenians.

Robert Kushen, Reporter at Human Rights Watch:

“The massacres were not entirely (or perhaps not at all) spontaneous, as the attackers had lists of Armenians and their addresses.”

Source. Conflict in the Soviet Union: Black January for Azerbaijan, Human Rights Watch, May 1991.

From An Open Letter to International Public Opinion on Anti-Armenian Pogroms in the Soviet Union, the joint initiative of the International College of Philosophy (Paris) and the Compliance Committee of Helsinki Agreements, with more than 100 signatories:

“The pogroms of Sumgait in February 1988 were followed by massacres in Kirovabad and Baku in November 1988. As recently as January 1990, the pogroms continued in Baku and other parts of Azerbaijan. The mere fact that these pogroms were repeated and the fact that they followed the same pattern lead us to think that these tragic events are no accidents or spontaneous outbursts. Rather, we are compelled to recognize that the crimes against the Armenian minority have become consistent practice — if not consistent policy — in Soviet Azerbaijan.”

Source. The New York Times, 27 July 1990.



BAKU 13-17.01.1990

Armenians that escaped from Baku



During the tragic events of 1990 in Baku hundreds of Baku Armenians were beaten and got physical injuries in the streets, at their workplace, in houses and on public transport. The majority of the exiled were of old age, most of who couldn't stand the cruel beating, humiliation and psychic shock and died on the way or in the hospitals after reaching their destination.

Etibar Mamedov, a Leader of the Azerbaijani Popular Front:

“I myself witnessed the murder of two Armenians near the railway station. A crowd gathered, threw petrol on them and set light to them even though the Nasiminsky District Police Station was only 200 meters away — with some 400–500 soldiers of the internal forces. The soldiers drove by the burning bodies at a distance of some 20 meters, and nobody attempted to close off the area and disperse the crowd.”

Source. “*Novaya Zhizn*” Newspaper, Moscow, 1990, No. 5 (14).

Eldar Zeynalov, Director of the Azerbaijan Human Rights Center:

“Behind all this is a well organised system. The HMDs (Housing & Maintenance Departments) are sending the refugees towards Russian homes, just as they did in 1989–1990 when drawing up lists of Armenians.”

Source. *Baku: Bloodless Pogroms*, “*New Daily Paper*”, No.27, Baku, 20 August 1993.

Garry Kasparov, Repeated World Chess Champion, born in Baku:

“When attackers are resolutely going from district to district and from home to home, that means they have been given lists, that there is someone who is directing [the whole thing]”

Source. “*Bulvar Gordona*”, 2 December 2008 available at: <http://www.bulvar.com.ua/arch/2008/48/493547f945807/>

BAKU 13-17.01.1990

REACTION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Dr. Tessa Hoffman, Scholar, Human Rights Activist, Germany:

“There are numerous accounts of especially cruel killings, such as the burning of people alive. It must be stressed that those Azeris and representatives of other nations who attempted to help the Armenians put their own lives at risk.”

Source. <http://www.golosarmenii.am/ru/19937/politics/1203/>

Materials of the seventeenth session of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 17–25 July 1997:

“For five days in January of 1990, the Armenian community of Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, were killed, tortured, robbed and humiliated. Pregnant women and babies were molested, little girls were raped in front of their parents’ eyes, Christian crosses were burned on their backs, and they were abused for their Christian faith.”

Source. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/17thsess.htm>

“Nationalism at Its Nastiest”, The New York Times, 19 January 1990:

“This week’s massacre in Baku, of predominantly Christian Armenians by Muslim Azerbaijanis, shows nationalism at its nastiest.”

Source. <http://www.nytimes.com/1990/01/19/opinion/nationalism-at-its-nastiest.html>



Around 400 Armenians became victims of the Baku pogroms and massacres of 13–19 January 1990. Several thousands suffered various degrees of bodily harm. Over the period 1988–1990, hundreds of thousands of Armenians living in Baku were deprived of their homeland, forcibly exiled from their native city. The dying Soviet system could not protect the Armenian victims of the Azerbaijani authorities’ supported violence and pogroms.



BAKU 13-17.01.1990



Maragha! The name would hardly tell you anything although you have had the chance of hearing the name “Nagorno-Karabakh” recurrently since 1988. Maragha was one of the largest villages of Nagorno-Karabakh. It WAS because on April 10, 1992, the Azeri “omon” forces invaded the village and set it ablaze, burning, torturing its peaceful population, some of whom were taken hostage never to be returned again! While those who survived left behind their belongings and spread throughout the world. Today, Maragha still remains under Azeri control.

**MARAGHA:
A CONTEMPORARY GOLGOTHA.
10.04.1992**

On 10 April 1992, in the village of Maragha in the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh's Martakert region, about 50 people were brutally killed. Another 49 were taken hostage, including 9 children, 18 women and 3 elderly persons, one of which was blind. To this day, the fate of 19 of the hostages remains unclear.

Source. Bloodshed in the Caucasus: escalation of the armed conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, Human Rights Watch, September 1992.



Note. Maragha after the Azerbaijani attack on April 10, 1992. Scenes of a stabbed man in the hospital, massacred family, an old lady with severed wrist, one of the few standing but useless walls of the destroyed village of Maragha.

“WHAT WE SAW DEFIES DESCRIPTION”

Baroness Caroline Cox of Queensbury, Member of the House of Lords, UK:

“It was April 1992 and that morning the Azeris had begun to attack [the] village, which had innocent civilians living there. The Azeris began with the shelling, and then the tanks came and the soldiers came. And the massacre started.”

“What we saw defies description [...] The photographs taken on those days in Maragha showed the horror of the massacre perpetrated there: decapitated and charred bodies, remains of children, blood-stained earth and pieces of human flesh scattered in places where Azerbaijanis had sawed up people while they were still alive. We saw sickles they had used for dismembering the bodies with dried up blood on them... Having killed the residents of Maragha, the Azeris went on to loot and burn the village.”

“I will never forget that terrible day... I saw the evidence: I saw the saws; I saw the vertebrae on the ground. They burnt other people alive. I saw the burnt remains of an old woman. And then they looted and pillaged — took everything — and burnt the homes.”

Source. Interview with Caroline Cox, <http://maragha.org/video2.html>,

see also: Interview with Baroness Caroline Cox in *Golos Armenii (The Voice of Armenia) Newspaper*, 7 April 2001, <http://sumgait.info/maraga/maraga-cox-1.htm>



Lelya and Narek

Armenian Hostages after the Maragha Massacres



Karine Poghosyan



Zarine

Note. Zarine was tortured in captivity. While being exchanged the vehicle full of hostages hit a mine and she died.

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS

According to the 1989 census in the USSR, 4,660 people were living in the village of Maragha. Since the autumn of 1988, the village had been under attack. This later culminated in heavy artillery fire; the majority of residents took refuge in dugout shelters in their yards. On the morning of 10 April 1992, however, Maragha came under [renewed] attack from the Azerbaijani side. And in the space of just a few hours, 50 of the remaining 118 residents were killed, 49 taken hostage, and the village was destroyed and set on fire.

Svetlana Poghosyan:

“They had dismembered and burnt Varya so badly that I could only recognise it was her from the clothes. They killed her husband not far from her, along with her daughters and mother-in-law, and took her two grandchildren hostage... I was looking for my daughter, Karine Poghosyan, and then I heard that she had been taken hostage along with her two children, three-year old Narek and little Leila who she was still breastfeeding. They also took my second daughter, Zarine, hostage along with her two children, aged four and six.”



Note. An elderly villager picks a body fragment of his neighbour in Maragha after the massacre. Many of the killed had their limbs chopped first or were otherwise mutilated and tortured. Some parents saw their children's heads sawn off while the poor victims were alive.

Photo *Caroline Cox.*



Note. Victim of the Maragha massacre.

Elmira Sahakyan:

“They beat, killed and burned some of the children, while the others they took as hostages. I cannot recount what they were doing to the young ladies and girls that they took hostage; the women who did return were covered in scars inflicted from cigarette burns. The head of one elderly person had been cut off and hung in the village square.”

Source. Petition to the Human Rights Committee c/o Centre for Human Rights, United Nations Office at Geneva 8–14 avenue de la Paix 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

Without exception, the peaceful residents who were killed in Maragha were subjected to severe torture. The Azeri soldiers dismembered, burned or desecrated the bodies of those who had already died. Ararat Aleksanyan was tied up to a tank and dragged through the ruins of the village. Rita Mnatsakanyan suffered the same ordeal and was then taken captive. She was released on 15 May 1992 but was found to be psychologically disturbed.



LIST of Residents of Maragha Taken Hostage on April 10,1992
(the List was compiled from previous records)

1. Alexanyan Roza, 1930 — killed in hostage
2. Alexsanyan Alvard, 1973 — no information
3. Alexsanyan Artur, 1965 — escaped from the village of Koulellie, close to Mirbashir
4. Aghajanyan Manya, 1948 — no information
5. Aghajanyan Gagik, 1967 — no information
6. Aghajanyan Apres, 1973 — no information
7. Aghajanyan Rafrik, 1971 — exchanged in 1992
8. Aghajanyan Abo, 1974 — no information
9. Ayvazyan Kamo, 1961 — no information
10. Ayvazyan Karen, 1988 — exchanged in 1992
11. Ayvazyan Vigen, 1990 — exchanged in 1992
12. Ayvazyan Seda — exchanged
13. Araqelyan Sergey, 1952 — no information
14. Araqelyan Hamo, 1902 killed in hostage, the corpse exchanged
15. Araqelyan Lusik, 1910 — killed in hostage, the corpse exchanged
16. Araqelyan Razmik — no information
17. Araqelyan Manya, 1928 — no information
18. Araqelyan Tamara, 1928 — no information
19. Avetisyan Yasha, 1932 — no information
20. Avetisyan Brina, 1930 — exchanged
21. Barseghyan Artsvik, 1928 — returned
22. Baghryan /Barseghyan/ Genya, 1930 — exchanged in 1992
23. Barseghyan Giozal, 1951 — exchanged
24. Barseghyan Ulyana, 1982 — exchanged
25. Barseghyan Liana, 1984 — exchanged
26. Barseghyan Lena V., 1986 — returned
27. Barseghyan/Sargsyan/Lena, 1932 — exchanged in 11.11.1992 in Krasnodar
28. Barseghyan Erik — exchanged
29. Baghdasaryan Alvina, 1935 — killed in hostage
30. Badalyan Larisa, 1957 — exchanged in 1992
31. Badalyan Apres, 1975 — exchanged in July 1992
32. Badaryan Liova, 1978 — exchanged in 1992
33. Badalyan Sasun, 1963 — no information
34. Galstyan Roza, 1930 — no information
35. Eremyan Sergey, 1922 — no information
36. Jvanenko Galina — no information
37. Khalatyan Paytsar, 1936 — no information
38. Karapetyan Mantash, 1935 — killed during escape
39. Karapetyan Yura, 1950 — exchanged
40. Karapetyan Rita — exchanged
41. Karapetyan Vrezh — no information
42. Hambardzumyan Yasha, 1928 — no information
43. Hambardzumyan Kamo, 1959 — no information
44. Hambardzumyan Liolya, 1990 — returned in 1994
45. Hambardzumyan Narek, 1989 — returned in 1992
46. Ghazaryan Genya, 1938 — returned
47. Ghazaryan Yura, 1932 — returned
48. Ghazaryan Anush, 1934 — returned
49. Movsesyan Razmik, 1938 — killed in hostage
50. Movsesyan Sveta, 1942 — killed in hostage
51. Mnacakanyan Zoya, 1945 — no information
52. Mnacakanyan Rita, 1966 — exchanged
53. Mseryan Gevorg, 1986 — no information
54. Mseryan Mher, 1988 — no information
55. Poghosyan Karine, 1959 — exchanged
56. Poghosyan Zarine, 1963 — killed during the exchange
57. Papikyan Gevorg, 1987 — exchanged
58. Papikyan Armen, 1989 — exchanged
59. Vardanyan Karo, 1965 — no information
60. Vardanyan Parandzem, 1925 — no information
61. Vardanyan Zarya — no information

Of all the hostages 7 had been returned, 22 — exchanged,
1 — escape from captivity, 1 — ransomed,
9 — killed, according to the information received, 22's destiny is still unclear
The lists' data is incomplete.

Source. <http://maragha.nk.am/documentseng3.html>

THE HOSTAGES

In Maragha families were killed en masse or taken captive — from infants to the elderly and the disabled. The youngest of the Maragha captives was just 18 months old.

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS FROM FREED HOSTAGES

Lena Barseghyan:

“They broke into the basement and found us. They started to beat us with the butts of their rifles. They brought us out and into the yard and Vardanush, bleeding heavily, fell to the ground, unconscious. Just then, an armoured car came around the corner and drove straight over her body; all that was left was a mangled mix of flesh, blood and mud. The other villagers and I were stripped naked and taken to Mir-Bashir. They treated us like merchandise — sold us to anyone they wanted.”

Zhenya Ghazaryan:

“The Deputy Director of the Mir-Bashir prison treated me and a married couple, Razmik and Sveta Movsisyan, like dogs. We were not allowed to stand up or speak. We were in chains, forced to walk on our hands and knees. They did not feed us. Sometime later, they killed Sveta and gave her distressed husband her flesh to eat. After that, they killed him too.”

Baroness Cox:

“It was a place of Calvary, like where our Lord died — it was a place of terrible suffering and cruelty.”

Source. Interview with Caroline Cox, <http://maragha.org/video2.html>

CONTINUATION OF STATE-RUN RACISM AGAINST ARMENIANS IN AZERBAIJAN

Since the 1994 ceasefire between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh, to which Armenia joined, Azerbaijan has continuously threatened to again use force against Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia along with unprovoked daily war-mongering by Azerbaijani leadership, anti-Armenian racist propaganda in the country, continued and dramatic increases in its military budget (twentyfold over 7 years), the ceaseless violations of the line of contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan and on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Here are some examples of the anti-Armenian racist attitude.

Khava Mamedova, Deputy of the Milli Mejlis:

“It’s time to wipe off Armenia as a state from the Earth.”

Source. Azerbaijani newspaper “Zerkalo”, 14.02.2006

On February 19, 2004, in Budapest, Hungary, Gurgen Margaryan, Lieutenant of the Armenian Army, who was one of the participants of a three-month English language course within the NATO Partnership for Peace program, was beheaded with an axe by a fellow Azerbaijani participant, Lieutenant Ramil Safarov. The murder took place at 5 am, while the victim was asleep. The Hungarian court sentenced Safarov to life imprisonment without a right for pardon during the initial 30 years. The international community condemned this horrendous crime, meanwhile Ramil Safarov was announced as the Man of the year in Azerbaijan (continuation on page 44).

Elmira Suleimanova, Ombudswoman of Azerbaijan:

“Safarov should become an example of patriotism for the Azerbaijani youth.”

Source. “Zerkalo” newspaper, February 28, 2004

Ganira Pashaeva, Deputy of the Milli Mejlis:

“After getting acquainted with you and after the continuous conversations I am grateful to fate that I so well know such a patriotic young man who loves his homeland. [...] Ramil, in this holy month of Ramadan my deepest prayers are related to you!”

Source. <http://modern.az/articles/16595/1/>

Zaur Aliyev, Head of “Diaspora and Lobby” Strategical Research Centre:

“...awarding R. Safarov, who is kept in the Hungarian prison as a hostage, with the title of National Hero can become a basis for raising the patriotic and fighting spirit of the Azerbaijani youth.”

Source. <http://www.peeep.us/982db60a>,

see also: <http://www.peeep.us/910028ae>

Anar Mamedkhanov, Deputy of the Milli Mejlis:

“I always tell our officers having military training in Turkey: ‘You are needed in Karabakh. Armenians should be killed in Karabakh, not in other countries.’”

Source. www.peeep.us/07bc407d



In the early morning of June 19, 2010 (exactly one day after the St. Petersburg meeting between the Russian, Armenian and Azerbaijani Presidents discussing ways to advance the peace process and confidence building measures), an Azeri soldier, Mubariz Ibrahimov, passed through the positions of the NKR forces and killed four and wounded three Karabakhi soldiers.

On July 22, 2010 President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev signed a decree that conferred Ibrahimov with the status of national hero. Documentary film idolizing Mubariz Ibrahimov was immediately made and shown in Azerbaijan. A school-lyceum complex was named after Mubariz Ibrahimov in his home town Bilesuvar, with a four meter tall statue of the latter (funded by the Azerbaijani Central Bank) unveiled in June 2011 as a sign of “heroic” emulation for Azerbaijani children. Posthumously he received the “Man of the Year-2011” award by ANS Group of Companies (news and broadcasting company).

Ilham Aliev, President of Azerbaijan:

"There are thousands and ten thousands heroes in our army like Mubariz waiting for the order of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief."

Source. From the speech of Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan, during the farewell ceremony for National Hero Mubariz Ibrahimov and Farid Ahmadov, <http://www.president.az/articles/1011/print?locale=en>

Elnur Aslanov, Chief of the Political Analysis and Information Department of the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan:

"...heroes as Mubariz Ibrahimov and Ramil Safarov with their bravery brought the second breath to the Azerbaijani society and people."

Source. <http://www.apa.az/en/news.php?id=153959>

On February 28, 2012 during the closing speech on the results of the socioeconomic development of the Azerbaijani districts, the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev said:

“Our main enemies are Armenians of the world and the hypocritical and corrupt politicians under their control.”

Source. <http://en.president.az/articles/4423>

In the spring of 2011 Azerbaijan launched an Azerbaijani Voluntary Military Patriotism Technical Sport Society, the main aim of which is training essential combat techniques, including sniper classes to the Azerbaijani youth. Boys and girls between the age limits of 15–30 are taking those 45-day courses.

Walid Gardashov, Publicist for Azerbaijan's Voluntary Military-Patriotic Sport-Technical Society:

“This is to develop feelings of bravery and courage in young people, which will turn a teenager into a bold, fearless soldier in the future.”

Source. Azerbaijan launches sniper lessons for youth, 4/7/2011 <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/default.aspx?pageid=438&n=azerbaijan-launches-sniper-lessons-for-youth-2011-04-07>

Orhan Hojayevev, 15-year-old sniper student at Voluntary Military-Patriotic Sport-Technical Society of Azerbaijan:

“I want to become a good shot in order to be useful in a fight against the enemy in case of war.”

Source. Azerbaijan: Teaching the ABCs of How to Be a Sniper, March 11, 2011, <http://www.eurasianet.org/node/63468>

The policy of intolerance in Azerbaijan was also displayed against the Armenian monuments throughout the Azerbaijani territory. The culmination of the cultural cleansing was the destruction of the 15th–17th century Armenian stonecrosses in Jugha Cemetery (the Autonomous Republic of Nakhijevan, Azerbaijan).

In the early 20th century there were over 5,000 standing cross-stones. First in 1998 and then in December 2005 the entire cemetery, all the tombstones and stonecrosses were toppled over, then broken into pieces, some were later carried away by rail and the rest loaded on dump-trucks and dumped into the Arax River. Azerbaijani regular army conscripts carried out this unique act of vandalism. The ancient Armenian cemetery site was completely flattened and a military target-practice field was constructed in its place.

Michael Petzet, President of International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS):

“Now that all traces of this highly important historic site seem to have been extinguished, all we can do is mourn the loss and protest against this totally senseless destruction.”

Source. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/azerbaijan-flattened-sacred-armenian-site-480272.html>

16th General Assembly of International Council on Monuments and Sites:

“...this heritage that once enjoyed its worthy place among the treasures of the world’s heritage can no longer be transmitted today to future generations.”

Source. http://www.international.icomos.org/quebec2008/resolutions/pdf/GA16_Resolutions_final_EN.pdf

The Annihilation of the Armenian Monuments

(Jugha Cemetery, the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan, Azerbaijan)



STATE-RUN PACISM AGAINST ARMENIANS





STATE-RUN PACISM AGAINST ARMENIANS

Anti-Armenian racist climate in Azerbaijan has caused a reaction among international organisations. The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) in its 2011 report on Azerbaijan noted with deep concern that:

“The constant negative official and media discourse concerning the Republic of Armenia helps to sustain a negative climate of opinion regarding people of Armenian origin, who remain vulnerable to discrimination.”

Source. European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) 2011 report on Azerbaijan, <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/country-by-country/azerbaijan/AZE-CbC-IV-2011-019-ENG.pdf>

In spite of the Hungarian court’s decision from 2006 (see page 37), on August 31, 2012 the Government of Hungary decided and without delay transferred Ramil Safarov to Azerbaijan. Immediately after landing in Baku Safarov was pardoned by the Decree of the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, despite the legal obligations of Azerbaijan under the 1983 Strasbourg Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons which anticipates that the administrating state shall continue the enforcement of the sentence or convert the sentence through a judicial or administrative procedure into a decision of that state.

Furthermore, Azerbaijani Defense Minister Safar Abiyev promoted Safarov to the rank of major, provided him with an apartment and the salary of previous 8 years.

The transfer and pardon of the axe-killer was glorified in Azerbaijan. Here are some examples.

Abulfas Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan:

“As a member of the Government and as a simple citizen, I am very proud with the decision of Mr. President to pardon Ramil Safarov. It was a courageous step.”

Source. <http://1news.az/society/20120906102215968.html>

Zahid Oruj, Member of the Azerbaijani Parliament:

“His release will raise the moral and psychological mood of the society.”

Source. <http://news.az/articles/politics/67396>

Ceyhun Osmanli, Member of Azerbaijani Parliament:

“Safarov’s release can be considered the success of offensive diplomacy of Azerbaijan.”

Source. <http://1news.az/interview/20120907011205126.html>

Administration and Staff of National Mental Health Facility No 1, Baku, Azerbaijan:

“Mr. President, we met your decision with tears of joy, and it is a fact that all citizens welcome the return of Ramil Safarov in our country and his pardon.”

Source. <http://ru.president.az/articles/5690>

Murad Isayev, Shaki, Azerbaijan:

“As a representative of the Azerbaijani youth, I felt a sense of pride and joy at the news of Ramil Safarov’s return to Azerbaijan and your order to pardon him.”

Source. <http://en.president.az/articles/5607>

The international community unanimously, unequivocally and strongly condemned the transfer by Hungary and the provocative actions of the Government of Azerbaijan. Here are few of the several condemnations.

Tommy Vietor, National Security Council Spokesman, the USA:

“President Obama is deeply concerned by today’s announcement that the President of Azerbaijan has pardoned Ramil Safarov following his return from Hungary. This action is contrary to ongoing efforts to reduce regional tensions and promote reconciliation.”

Source. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/08/31/statement-nsc-spokesman-tommy-vietor-azerbaijan-s-decision-pardon-ramil->

Alexander Lukashевич, Spokesman of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

“We consider that the actions of Azerbaijani, as well as Hungarian authorities run counter to internationally coordinated actions, first of all taken by the OSCE Minsk Group, aimed at decreasing tensions in the region.”

Source. http://www.mid.ru/brp_4.nsf/newslines/D965B67452FB30E444257A6E00400A24



Caption. A “hero’s” welcome

Statement of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France:

“France, like the other co-chairs of the Minsk Group, is strongly committed to a peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and considers that this decision can seriously harm the negotiation efforts, as well as the establishment of a climate of confidence between the parties.”

Source. <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/pays-zones-geo/azerbaidjan/la-france-et-l-azerbaidjan/evenements-4053/article/azerbaidjan-grace-octroyee>

Rupert Colville, Spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights:

“Ethnically motivated hate crimes of this gravity should be deplored and properly punished — not publicly glorified by leaders and politicians.”

Source. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=12481&LangID=E>

Statement of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs:

“The Co-Chairs expressed their deep concern and regret for the damage the pardon and any attempts to glorify the crime have done to the peace process and trust between the sides.”

Source. <http://www.osce.org/mg/93343>

Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe:

“Making a hero out of a murder convict is unacceptable.”

Source. http://hub.coe.int/en/web/coe-portal/press/newsroom?p_p_id=newsroom&_newsroom_articleId=1118470&_newsroom_groupId=10226&_newsroom_tabs=newsroom-topnews&pager.offset=0

Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE):

“I join the international condemnation of the ‘glorification’ of the terrible crime which Mr. Safarov has committed. I call on the Azeri authorities to reconsider their position, in line with the standards and the ethos of the Council of Europe... His liberation is unacceptable, and I am extremely disappointed by the abusive use of a Council of Europe legal instrument in this affair.”

Source. http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/NewsManager/EMB_NewsManagerView.asp?ID=7905&L=2

Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):

“That terrible crime shouldn’t be glorified. And I am deeply concerned that the Azerbaijani decision to pardon this army officer damages trust and it certainly doesn’t contribute to peace, to cooperation and reconciliation in the region.”

Source. <http://www.euronews.com/2012/09/12/nato-chief-talks-to-euronews-on-911-anniversary/>

European Commission against Racism and Intolerance:

“Developments such as those in the Safarov case risk cultivating a sense of impunity for the perpetrators of racist offences of the most serious nature.”

Source. http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/117-04_09_2012_Azerbaijan_en.asp

Edward Lucas, European Voice:

“Glorifying Safarov has made Azerbaijan look hysterical and morally suspect in world eyes. That is hardly a triumph for Azeri diplomacy.”

Source. <http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/imported/moral-compass-goes-awry/75124.aspx>

Orhan Kemal Cengiz, “Radikal” newspaper, Turkey:

“On these days Azerbaijan is living through a collective madness. In Azerbaijan Safarov was met as a national hero, pardoned, promotion in rank, new apartment, paid back with the salary of these years. About a brutal killer they talk as of a hero. If it is not a collective madness, what is it then?”

Source. <http://www.radikal.com.tr/Radikal.aspx?aType=RadikaIYazar&ArticleID=1099022&CategoryID=98>

European Parliament resolution of 13 September 2012 on Azerbaijan: the Ramil Safarov case (2012/2785(RSP)):

The European Parliament

[...]

2. Deplores the decision by the President of Azerbaijan to pardon Ramil Safarov, a convicted murderer sentenced by the courts of a Member State of the European Union; regards that decision as a gesture which could contribute to further escalation of the tensions between two countries, and which is exacerbating feelings of injustice and deepening the divide between those countries, and is further concerned that this act is jeopardising all peaceful reconciliation processes within the societies concerned and may undermine the possible future development of peaceful people-to-people contact in the region;
3. Considers that, while the presidential pardon granted to Mr Safarov complies with the letter of the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, it runs contrary to the spirit of that international agreement, which was negotiated to allow the transfer of a person convicted on the territory of one state to serve the remainder of his or her sentence on the territory of another state.
4. Considers the presidential pardon granted to Mr Safarov as a violation of the diplomatic assurances given to the Hungarian authorities in Azerbaijan's request for transfer on the basis of on the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons;
5. Deplores the hero's welcome accorded to Mr Safarov in Azerbaijan and the decision to promote him to the rank of major and pay him eight years' back salary upon his arrival, and is concerned about the example this sets for future generations and about the promotion and recognition he has received from the Azerbaijani state [...]

Source. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2012-0356+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

Racism and ethnic cleansing became core elements of the present-day Azeri statehood. Sumgait was the first horrifying symptom of what Azerbaijan became, i.e. a racist threat to regional stability and security. This is a fact that the world can not afford to overlook.