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**Press release
32nd anniversary of the Khojaly Genocide
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Today, Azerbaijan commemorates the thirty-second anniversary of the largest massacre committed during the Armenian aggression. On the night of 25 to 26 February 1992, the Armenian armed forces invaded the town of Khojaly in the Garabagh region of Azerbaijan, killing 613 civilians, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly persons. Six families were totally exterminated; 25 children lost both parents and 130 children lost one parent. The victims were treated with extreme brutality. Many bodies were found badly mutilated, with heads severed or scalped and eyes gouged out. Some victims were burned alive. Those who were not killed were left to freeze to death in the sub-zero temperatures of the mountains. Another 1,000 residents of Khojaly were wounded, 1,275 were taken hostage and 150 went missing.

This tragedy elicited an international outcry. A number of national parliaments, international organizations, eminent international lawyers, foreign journalists, human rights activists and international non-governmental organizations condemned the slaughter in Khojaly as an act of genocide or a crime against humanity.

However, Armenia refuses to bring the perpetrators of the Khojaly massacre and numerous other war crimes committed by its forces, agents and officials to justice. Armenia's failure to act and to provide remedy for its breaches constitutes a clear violation of international law, consolidates impunity and poses a threat to long-awaited peace in the region.

The counter-offensive operation and the local counter-terrorism measures carried out by Azerbaijan in the fall of 2020 and last September, respectively, put an end to the 30-year occupation of its territories. Among the hundreds of liberated cities, towns and villages of Azerbaijan was Khojaly, to which life is now gradually returning.

Today, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev laid the foundation stone for the Khojaly Genocide Memorial in the city of Khojaly, met with the local public and inspected the ongoing reconstruction work in the city.

On the occasion of the Khojaly Genocide, the following documents and a film are available for viewing:

- Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of the Khojaly Genocide: <https://mfa.gov.az/az/news/no07024>
- Statement of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the 32nd anniversary of Khojaly Genocide: <https://ombudsman.az/en/news/1365>
- Letter from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the UN (A/78/776 – S/2024/171)
- The documentary film “13” dedicated to the Khojaly massacre: <https://youtu.be/baEtWrqm2wA?si=OLUK3kS1DfZtAjsh>