



Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Japan

PRESS-RELEASE

Khojaly Genocide

On 25-26 February 1992, the armed forces of Armenia committed an act of genocide against civilian population of Khojaly, Azerbaijani town within the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Armenian army brutally killed 613 people (among them, 63 children, 106 women, 70 elders) and destroyed this town. 487 people were wounded (including 76 children); 1275 persons were taken as hostages; 150 people are still missing.

Since 1988, pogroms began in the 126 Azeri settlements in Nagorno-Karabakh, and this form of ethnic cleansing continued until 1992. The culmination of this crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh was the tragedy in Khojaly – an overt form of genocide. This settlement of 6,000 people was destroyed and more than 600 people were murdered overnight.

Armenian officials deny their responsibility for the crimes committed during conflict, including against the population of Khojaly, airily falsifying facts and sharing own interpretations of them, which deviate not only from reality but also from elementary logic. Nevertheless, even the subtlest propaganda will never manage to disprove the facts that speak of situation diametrically opposite to that represented by Armenian side.

Apart from the considerable facts in possession of the law-enforcement agencies of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the responsibility of Armenia is documented also by numerous independent sources, as well as by eyewitnesses of this tragedy and evidences of the Armenian military that took part in seizure of Khojaly. The facts mentioned above confirm that the intentional slaughter of the Khojaly town civilians on 25-26 February 1992, including children, elderly and women, was directed to their mass extermination only because they were Azerbaijanis.

The Khojaly town was chosen as a stage for further occupation and ethnic cleansing of Azerbaijani territories, creating panic and fear before the horrifying massacre. The mere brutality of the massacres in Khojaly was aimed at preparing the grounds for subsequent massive refugee flows not only from the Nagorno-Karabakh region, but also from other regions, since no one amongst civilians from Agdam, Shusha, Kelbadjar and other districts of Azerbaijan (total of 8 occupied regions) would have preferred to stay and witness another massacre by those, who chose to become executors by their own will. Khojaly was chosen as a stage for a slaughter at the very beginning of the large occupation campaign. As a result, 20% of the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan was occupied and the number of refugees reached more than 1 million.