

# Statement on behalf of the participants of European Khojaly Rally

(Vienna, Austria/  
February 26, 2023)

WE, the participants of the European Khojaly Rally, held in Vienna on February 26, 2023 dedicated to the Khojaly Genocide, sign this statement to express our deep sorrow and sympathies to the victims of the war crime perpetrated by the Armenian armed forces with the support of the 366th motorized rifle regiment of former Soviet army in the town of Khojaly on February 25-26, 1992, condemn and decry expansionist policies and the aggressive campaign of ethnic cleansing conducted by Armenia against civilians population of Azerbaijan.

We hereby call on the non-profit and international organizations to make statements recognizing the Khojaly Genocide and urging the Armenian government to formally recognize the war crime and bring those responsible to justice. The facts are undeniable and indisputable:

- On the one night of February 25–26, 1992, Armenian troops with the support of the 366th motorized rifle regiment of former Soviet army launched a massive assault against the besieged town of Khojaly, quickly overrunning the lightly armed defense units and burning the town to the ground. Khojaly had been besieged for several months and had no communication with the outside world. At the time of the assault, only 2,000 remained out of 8,000 residents of the town;
- During the offensive, Armenian troops chased down fleeing civilians, executed them in groups, and took some others hostage. A total of 613 Khojaly residents, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly persons were systematically and ruthlessly murdered by the Armenian armed forces and their collaborators. Furthermore, 1,000 civilians became disabled, eight families were completely decimated, 25 children were orphaned, 130 children lost one of their parents, 1,275 persons were taken hostage, and 150 are considered ‘missing’ to this day;
- The Khojaly Genocide essentially constituted a genocide, which was not just limited to men, but also included women and children, with the youngest victim being a newborn baby;
- The Armenian assault involved the detachments of armed forces of the Republic of Armenia and units of the former Soviet Army 366th motor rifle regiment, and was led and coordinated by warlords like Serzh Sargsyan and Robert Kocharyan, both of whom later served as presidents of the Republic of Armenia, Seyran Ohanian who served as the Minister of Defense of Republic of Armenia, and many other recognized terrorists;

- International media widely reported on the Khojaly Genocide in 1992, documenting the gruesome details of the extermination of the remaining population of the besieged town of Khojaly (Nagorno-Karabakh victims buried in Azerbaijani town – Refugees claim hundreds died in Armenian attack / The Washington Post, 28 February 1992

By Thomas Goltz, Aghdam, Azerbaijan, 27 February, Armenian soldiers massacre hundreds of fleeing families / The Times, 1 March 1992 By Thomas Goltz, Aghdam, Azerbaijan, Armenian raid leaves Azeris dead or fleeing / The Washington Times, 2 March 1992, Armenians Killed 1,000, Azeris Charge / The Boston Globe, 3 March 1992 By Paul Quinn-Judge, Baku, Azerbaijan);

- For 30 years, Armenia kept 20% of Azerbaijani territory under illegal occupation, and consistently ignored the UN Security Council resolutions 822, 853,874 and 884, unanimously adopted in 1993 and condemning the occupation of Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, and demanding an unconditional, immediate and full withdrawal of the occupying troops from the territories of Azerbaijan;

- The perpetrators and organizers of this heinous crime admitted to the deliberate mass killing of Azerbaijani civilians in Khojaly, including Serzh Sargsyan, who stated in his interview to British journalist Thomas de Waal that “Before Khojaly, the Azerbaijanis thought that they were joking with us; they thought that the Armenians were people who could not raise their hand against the civilian population. We were able to break that [stereotype]. And that’s what happened.”

- The inherent elements of the acts committed in Khojaly qualify them as a crime of genocide, as defined by international law, including the UN General Assembly Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948);

- Conflict that lasted for three decades concluded in 2020, leading to the restoration of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. As the right path to reconciliation, the perpetrators of the Khojaly Genocide must be brought to justice to ensure sustainable peace in the long-suffering Caucasus region;

Recognition and standing up for the truth are important, not only for relieving the victims’ sorrow, but also to make sure that such mass atrocities and genocides never happen again.

In view of all of the above, we call on the foreign states and international organizations to condemn the mass killings and ethnic cleansing campaigns carried out by Armenia and exert pressure on the Armenian authorities to formally recognize the Khojaly Genocide and prosecute those responsible for this war crime.