



FİNLANDIYA AZƏRBAYCAN GƏNCLƏR BİRLİYİ TƏŞKİLATI
SUOMI AZERBAIDZHAN NUORTEN YHDISTYS RY
ORGANIZATION YOUTH UNION OF AZERBAIJAN OF FINLAND



Suomi Azerbaidzhan Nuorten Yhdistys Ry
Punakiventie 15 B 21 Helsinki 00980

Puh: +358449856393
e-mail: nazrinmajidli@gmail.com

Statement of the Organization Youth Union of Azerbaijan of Finland on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the tragedy of January 20, 1990

The aggressive act of January 20 committed 30 years ago is, in fact, a grave crime against humanity. This date, which has engraved on our memory as a Black January, is a Day of Mourning of the martyrs as well as of the fight for the country's territorial integrity, also of the pride and honour. These bloody events once more proved that our people are able to fight for restoration of their independence.

Since 1988, encouragement of the Armenian separatists in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast by the former Soviet State, gradual removal of the state organizations of this autonomous oblast from the authority of our country due to biased approach against Azerbaijan, and deportation of the Azerbaijanis from their historical-ethnic lands in Armenia exhausted the patience of our people. As a respond to the protests of the people of Azerbaijan, the Soviet Army perpetrated this massacre to punish the Azerbaijanis.

At the night from 19 to 20 January, 1990, the Soviet armed forces as well as armored vehicles entered Baku, Sumgait, also other cities and rayons of the country without a prior notification. Eventually, international legal norms, the relevant provisions of the former USSR as well as the Azerbaijan SSR constitutions were severely violated and our multinational people rose to defend their lands and national identity were subjected to reprisals.

According to the instructions by the USSR leaders, military forces entered the Baku city killed 147 unarmed civilians mercilessly regardless their nationality, age and sex. 744 innocent persons were injured in the capital city, surrounding settlements, and in districts, the hundreds were disappeared and 841 persons were unlawfully imprisoned. On January 20, 21 people were killed even after declaring a state of emergency. Ambulances and physicians carrying the injured persons were also shot; medical staff became martyr as well.

Immeasurable destructions were happened, hundreds of the unarmed, peaceful people including elderly, women and children were annihilated. In order to hide from the population the official information about entering the city by the armed forces, the energy bloc of the state television was exploded as a result of special operations held by the USSR Committee of State Security.

The prohibited weapons and supplies were used during these attacks, people seriously wounded were shot at on the spot, were thrown under caterpillars of the heavy military vehicles and were killed painfully by the brutal soldiers. War criminals full of hatred against the Azerbaijanis destroyed the corps in order to hide their number.

At that period, on behalf of all Azerbaijanis, the sharpest statement was made by the National leader Heydar Aliyev, whereas he demanded to give political assessment to the crimes against humanity committed on January 20 and to punish perpetrators. In 1993, at the initiative of Heydar Aliyev, the country Parliament declared January 20 as a Day of Mourning, which is commemorated in the country each year.

The tragedy of January 20, 1990, must be interpreted as a crime against humanity under the international law.

According to the Article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court 'crime against humanity' means extermination; enforced disappearance of persons; other inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering, serious injury to body, to mental or physical health are defined as elements of the crime.

Pursuant to the international law, there is sufficient legislative framework for the interpretation of the events occurred on January 20, 1990, as a crime against humanity. Considering all the above mentioned facts, we do hope that the international community, international organizations will support the just demands of Azerbaijan and this bloody event will get its international legal recognition and the perpetrators won't remain unpunished.

Chairman of the Organization Youth Union of Azerbaijan of Finland

Nazrin Majidli 

Deputy Chairman of the Finnish Azerbaijani Youth Union Organization

Ayla Zulfi 