



**FINLANDIYA AZƏRBAYCAN ASSOSIASIYASI
SUOMI AZERBAIDZHAN ASSOSIAATIO
ASSOCIATION OF AZERBAIJAN IN FINLAND**



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Statement of the Association of Azerbaijanis of Finland on the occasion of the 29th anniversary of the tragedy of January 20, 1990

We Association of Azerbaijan in Finland, Society of Azerbaijani Women, community of Azerbaijanis living in Finland, highly appraise the attitude of this country on protection of human rights.

Location of the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly in Finland and playing a big role in protecting human rights all over the world makes Helsinki remarkable center of protection of human rights.

Taking into account those issues we have decided to apply to the Parliament of Finland in the 29th anniversary of the 20 January 1990 tragedy.

The aggressive act of 20 January committed 29 years ago is, in fact, a grave crime against humanity. This date, that has engraved on to 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, unity and solidarity. As every crime, this crime had also its own instigators and executors. Since 1988, the encouraged by the former Soviet State Armenian separatists in the Nagorno Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, gradually removing the government organizations of this autonomous oblast from the authority of our country due to bias against Azerbaijan, deportation of Azerbaijanis from their historical-ethnic lands in Armenia exhausted the patience of our people. To the protests of the people of Azerbaijan, the Soviet Army perpetrated this massacre to punish Azerbaijanis. Later on the night of 20 January 1990, armoured vehicles, military forces, entered the Baku, Sumgayit cities and the some other regions of the country without a prior notification. Landing groups from the amphibious warships attacked the city and heavy military equipment very easily destroyed the barricades set up by civilians. Army officers and soldiers of Armenian origin from Stavropol, Rostov and Krasnodar were involved into the military operations. Consequently, international legal norms and related provisions of the former USSR and of Azerbaijan SSR Constitutions were severely violated. Our multinational population struggled for the territorial integrity and national dignity was subjected to special cruelty.

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. Immeasurable destructions were happened, hundreds of the unarmed, peaceful people including women, youth, and children were annihilated, painfully killed, city's streets were covered by the slaughtered blood.

The National Leader Haydar Aliyev demanded to give political assessment to the crimes against humanity committed in January 20 tragedy and to punish perpetrators. At the initiative of the National Leader who proclaimed that date as the Day of National Mourning, the national Parliament for the first time gave political and legal assessment to this event.

As a result of punishing measures against peaceful population committed on 20 January event and the crime against humanity, the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, also of other international human rights documents were severely violated.

The tragedy resulted at mass loss of human beings, is a terrible crime for its content and scale. However, this bloody crime has not yet been given international legal assessment and instigators as well as perpetrators of this act have not yet been punished.

This event, reflecting all features of the crime against humanity under the international law, was perpetrated by severe and mass violation of human rights.

We do hope that the world community, international organizations will support the justified demands of Azerbaijan, and this grievous crime against humanity will receive international recognition as a bloody event against humanity and the perpetrators will be punished soon.

**Chairman of the Control and Inspection Commission of the European Azerbaijanis Congress
Chairman of the Association of Azerbaijanis of Finland**

Vasif Muradli

**Secretary General of the Congress of European Azerbaijanis
Chairman of the Azerbaijan Women's Society**

Arzu Oktay