

2012 -- H 7880

=====
LC02122
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

HOUSE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY URGING THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND TO COMMEMORATE THE
1992 KHOJALY MASSACRE

Introduced By: Representative Raymond E. Gallison

Date Introduced: March 01, 2012

Referred To: House Judiciary

1 ~~WHEREAS, In 1985, Soviet President Gorbachev's policy of glasnost or openness~~
2 ~~unleashed long suppressed hostility between Armenia and Azerbaijan, fueling the longest~~
3 ~~interethnic dispute in the former Soviet Union between Armenia and Azerbaijan, a conflict that~~
4 ~~dated to 1918; and~~

5 ~~WHEREAS, Khojaly was the second largest town of Azerbaijanis in the Nagorno~~
6 ~~Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, with a population of more than seven thousand people that~~
7 ~~included many Turks — Meskhets who had already escaped from Fergana (Uzbekistan), and~~
8 ~~Azerbaijan refugees from Armenia; and~~

9 ~~WHEREAS, For a two day period in February, 1992, Khojaly, now under the occupation~~
10 ~~of Armenian armed forces, was the site of the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians in the~~
11 ~~course of the Armenia Azerbaijan conflict; and~~

12 ~~WHEREAS, Armenian Armed Forces, reportedly aided by the Russian 366th Motor Rifle~~
13 ~~Regiment, completely destroyed the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly, killing hundreds of ethnic~~
14 ~~Azerbaijani civilians, many of whom were women, children, and the elderly, with many more~~
15 ~~taken hostage, missing, or left disabled; and~~

16 ~~WHEREAS, According to Human Rights Watch, the massacre in Khojaly constituted a~~
17 ~~deliberate violation of customary law regarding the treatment of civilians in war zones, thus~~
18 ~~amounting to a crime against humanity committed by the Armenian Forces; and~~

19 ~~WHEREAS, The extent of the cruelty of this massacre against the town of Khojaly, its~~

1 ~~men, women, children, and the elderly is unfathomable and should not be forgotten; now,~~
2 ~~therefore be it~~

3 ~~RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and~~
4 ~~Providence Plantations hereby offers sincere sympathies to the people of Azerbaijan, stands in~~
5 ~~solidarity with the Azerbaijan Society of America and Azerbaijani American Council in solemn~~
6 ~~observance of the 20th anniversary of this terrible event and urges the citizens of our State to~~
7 ~~commemorate the tragedy that occurred in the town of Khojaly on February 25 and 26, 1992 and;~~
8 ~~and be it further~~

9 ~~RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to~~
10 ~~transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Rhode Island representative of Azerbaijani-~~
11 ~~American Council, Mr. Zikret Hasan.~~

=====
LC02122
=====