

2018 -- H 8211

LC005688

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGIC EVENTS IN  
SUMGAYIT

Introduced By: Representatives Kazarian, Mattiello, Shekarchi, O'Brien, and Amore

Date Introduced: May 17, 2018

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The Republic of Artsakh, also known as the Nagorno Karabakh Republic,  
2 has historically been Armenian territory, populated by an overwhelming majority of Armenians,  
3 which was illegally severed from Armenia by the Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin in 1921, and  
4 placed under the newly created Soviet Azerbaijani administration; and

5 WHEREAS, Throughout the Soviet Azerbaijani dominance, the population of Artsakh  
6 resisted oppression and discrimination, and sought reunification with Armenia; and

7 WHEREAS, February 20, 1988, marked resumption of the national liberation movement  
8 in Artsakh, which legally appealed for reunification with Armenia, inspiring peoples throughout  
9 the Soviet empire to stand up for their rights and freedoms, and helping to bring democracy to  
10 millions and contributing to world peace; and

11 WHEREAS, Azerbaijan responded to Artsakh's appeal with violent atrocities and  
12 massacres against the Armenian population in the cities of Sumgayit in February of 1988,  
13 Kirovabad in November of 1988, Baku in January of 1990, as well as in the village of Maragha in  
14 April of 1992, and in other settlements, killing tens of thousands of people and forcing an  
15 estimated 400,000 Armenians out of their homes; and

16 WHEREAS, Tens of thousands of Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan found shelter  
17 across the United States, including thousands of our current compatriots in the State of Rhode  
18 Island; and

19 WHEREAS, Despite Azerbaijan's aggression, Artsakh continued its path towards a

1 sovereign democracy; and

2 WHEREAS, Baku continues to instigate anti-Armenian sentiments, and refuses to  
3 implement US-backed measures aimed at strengthening regional peace and stability by lowering  
4 tension along the border between Artsakh and Azerbaijan; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
6 commemorates the 30th Anniversary of the tragic events in Sumgayit; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That this House hereby welcomes freedom aspirations of the Republic of  
8 Artsakh to continue developing as a trustful member of the international community of nations;  
9 and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That this House hereby supports peaceful initiatives by the United States  
11 government and other international mediators called to promote final peace between Artsakh and  
12 Azerbaijan; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
14 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Rhode  
15 Island Congressional Delegation, and the United States Department of State.

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