

APPEAL

**to the World's Religious Leaders and Parliaments,
UN, OSCE, EC, OIC and the European Court of Human Rights.**

In the Name of the Great Creator!

On the eve of the 27th commemoration of the Genocide committed in town of Khojaly, located in Karabakh, Azerbaijan, we appeal once again to the entire International Community regardless of the religion, language or ethnic identity.

The Historical fact, which has been engraved in the memory of the people of Azerbaijan, evidences that on the night from February 25th to 26th in 1992 the Armenian invaders, supported by their protectors, conducted a sudden armed attack on Khojaly town and committed ruthless massacre over peaceful unarmed civilians. That night, the armed Armenian bandits brutally killed 613 people including the elderly, children, and pregnant women. Khojaly was razed to the ground, 150 persons were missing, 1275 people were captured to be severely tortured, and unthinkable outrage was committed on the bodies of brutally murdered people.

According to the international law, Genocide is one of the gravest crimes against Humanity and Peace. At its core, Khojaly tragedy belongs to the same category with the Holocaust, Guernica, and Katyn genocides. As a result of the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, Azerbaijani people were subjected to the ethnic cleansing, physical and moral terror. Armenian extremists occupied 20 percent of our territories, banished more than a million of our compatriots from their own lands, and destroyed our historical, religious, and cultural monuments and relics by committing the acts of vandalism in the occupied Karabakh lands. The intentional act of genocide committed in Khojaly became culmination point of the Armenian atrocities.

Although 27 years have passed, the crimes of Armenian terrorists remain unpunished, and 4 well-known resolutions of UN Security Council are still unimplemented. Despite a number of world's countries and international organizations, who have objective approach to the reiterated appeals of Azerbaijan to the international

community, recognize the genocide took place in Khojaly, unfortunately, there are also those who neglect this horrific crime.

At the core of acts of violence, terrorism and extremism committed in the world today are double standards and dangerous trends of racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and Islamophobia, which appear in the approach of some states, organizations, and religious leaders to the existing issues. As long as the acts of genocide, including the Khojaly tragedy, will remain with no adequate assessment because of such approach, this will consequently provoke further crimes against humankind, and create grounds for acts of genocide, terrorism, extremism and separatism in the different parts of the world. It is very unfortunate that some countries are seeking for the acknowledgement of fictitious genocides, not the true ones. We have been concerned about inclinations towards the biased politicization of events, leading to unfounded claims, which have no grounds of historical facts on the international scale.

Dismissive approach towards the aggression against Azerbaijan, and its consequences such as one million refugees and displaced people, as well as impunity of Armenian extremists for expelling our compatriots from their own homes, is encouraging the Armenian side not only to continue its provocations, but also to capture our compatriots who pay visits to the graves of their relatives, resting in their home lands, to torture them inhumanly, and even to ignore the international conventions requiring the return of the killed peoples' bodies. No doubt that the perpetrators of Khojaly Genocide will not be able to escape the Court of History. We believe that the day when Khojaly murderers will stand in the international court, by the will of the God!

We, the leaders of various religious faiths existing in Azerbaijan, believe that the territorial integrity of our country will be certainly restored with the efforts led by the Head of the State of Azerbaijan, and we offer our prayers for that. We greatly honor the blessed memory of those martyrs who lost their lives for the sake of the liberation of Karabakh, the integral part of our Motherland, and among them, those martyrs who died in Khojaly, and we pray for their souls to rest in peace. As the religious figures, we wish peace, happiness, security and prosperity to all peoples of the World, we pray and make all efforts for the peaceful reestablishment of the justice in Nagorno-Karabakh,

within the framework of international law, as well as for the refugees and displaced persons to return back to their home lands. Therefore, once again we appeal to the religious leaders, parliaments, international organizations and the European Court of Human Rights, calling them to give a principled political and legal assessment to the aggression and the atrocities committed by the Armenian extremists against Azerbaijani people, and recognize the crimes committed in Khojaly as Genocide.

May the Almighty Creator bless all of us in our good deeds and help us to be fair!
AMEN!

Sheikh-ul Islam Allahshukur PASHAZADEH
The Chairman of Caucasus Muslim's Board

ALEKSANDR
The Archbishop of Baku and Azerbaijan

Milikh YEVDAYEV
**The Head of the Community of Mountain
Jews in Azerbaijan**

Baku, 21st February, 2019