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School of International Affairs and Business

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APPROACHING 'RED LINES' ON THE KARABAKH CONFLICT

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Armenia's plan to open an airport in the occupied territories crosses "red lines" both for Azerbaijan and for the international community. If Yerevan goes ahead, Azerbaijan will be forced to respond to this flagrant violation of international law, possibly through the use of force if increased diplomatic pressure does not work. But more significantly, because the reaction of the international community will affect the Azerbaijani decision, the international community, which up to now has invested so much hope in the OSCE Minsk Group, will be compelled to reconsider its approach given that that body has failed to achieve a breakthrough in the 25-year-old conflict.

Many commentators and officials in Azerbaijan have been expressing increasing skepticism about the Minsk Group, and some of their counterparts in Turkey, Iran, and the co-chair countries have done so as well. Consequently, even though the three co-chairs themselves have stressed that at least their work has prevented the situation from deteriorating into violence, fears in their countries that Armenian actions may call even that limited success into question are driving some of those involved with talks about a settlement to think about making some change in the format of talks between the sides.

Azerbaijan itself has increased pressure on the Minsk Group countries and the international community not only by its implicit threats to take unilateral action if the Armenians do so with the opening of an airport, but also by its international campaign to gain recognition of the February 1992 massacre in Khojaly as an act of genocide, a campaign that has already had some success and that raises the stakes about anything connected with the future of that Azerbaijani city.

Speaking at a February 18th meeting with members of Germany's Bundestag, for example, Parviz Shahbazov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Berlin, underlined these twin concerns. He stressed that Armenian plans to open the airport at Khojaly "demonstrate the effort of Armenia to freeze the status quo," rather than to follow either the decisions of all international forums and the Madrid Principles of the OSCE Minsk Group and end its occupation of Azerbaijani territory. [1]

And the ambassador stressed that "the mass murder by Armenian armed formations of the Azerbaijani civilian population of the city of Khojaly on February 26, 1992 must be recognized, [because] only on the basis of historical truth can the process of long-term reconciliation take place. Armenia, which itself complains about a genocide committed against it, must show understanding of the problems of the Azerbaijani people." Opening the airport at Khojaly shows no such willingness; instead, it rubs salt in the wounds of the Azerbaijanis and shows that Armenia intends to keep its forces in the occupied territories for a long time to come.

What are the OSCE Minsk Group co-chair countries likely to do? For the moment, they are joining the international chorus of denunciation of Yerevan for even thinking of opening an airport in the occupied territories, thus highlighting Armenia's growing international isolation and putting new pressure on Yerevan to negotiate more seriously within the framework of the renewed Madrid Principles which call for Armenian withdrawal from the occupied territories, the restoration of Azerbaijan's sovereignty within its internationally recognized boundaries, and the provision of broad autonomy for the ethnic Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh and adjoining areas.

Baku has long accepted these terms, but Armenia is once again demonstrating that it is not willing to do so. Consequently, the Minsk Group co-chairs by doing no more than re-asserting them risk becoming an irrelevancy, diplomats who visit the region periodically but are unable to push things forward. Given the risk that Armenia is now passing these "red lines," the international community clearly has to come up with a more effective strategy.

That will require in the first instance a re-examination of some of the problems with the Minsk Group from the beginning. Instead of treating Armenia's invasion and occupation as an act of aggression that must be reversed, the Minsk Group has invariably talked about squaring the circle between the right of every country to live within internationally recognized borders and the right of every nation to self-

determination of one kind or another. That may be a useful tactic, but as a strategy, it has failed: Instead of pushing Armenia to withdraw, it has encouraged Armenia to assume that it can simply delay and create new “facts on the ground” which the international community will have no choice but to accept.

Moreover, as the historical record suggests, the co-chair countries are anything but united in their preferences for the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Instead of putting consistent and unified pressure on Yerevan to live according to the universally acknowledged principles of international law, one of the co-chair countries has continued to provide arms and even troops for the Armenian side. And instead of supporting Azerbaijan in its quest to restore its sovereignty, other co-chair countries have seemed more interested in criticizing the domestic problems of Azerbaijan, criticism that may be reasonable but that is with regard to this issue irrelevant.

That reality is gradually sinking in. British MP Chris Pincher notes that, “no one disputes the right of civilians to free movement. But surely the right time to start talking about re-opening the airport is once the hostilities are over.” In other words, as a Caspian Research commentator cite, “the airport should not be a tool in the conflict: it should be an achievement at the end of the process, able to deliver inhabitants of Nagorno-Karabakh—Armenian and Azerbaijani—to the wider world.” [2] And as Sergey Markedonov, a Russian analyst now working at CSIS in Washington, notes even more bluntly in a recent commentary, “the OSCE Minsk Group as a whole and also the three co-chair countries by themselves do not have sufficient resources in order to realize in practice any model” for the resolution of the conflict. [3]

Consequently, before it becomes too late, it is time for the international community to modify its approach, either by expanding the Minsk Group to include other interested countries or by replacing that body with one that will force the two countries directly involved to negotiate directly an end to the conflict according to international law. That will not be easy, but it is necessary if Armenia is to be prevented from crossing these “red lines” and sending the region into a period of new and greater violence.

Notes

[1] See <http://www.vestikavkaza.ru/analytics/Otkrytie-aeroporta-v-KHodzhal-ybudet-oznachat-perekhod-krasnoy-linii.html> (accessed 27 February 2013).

[2] See <http://caspianresearch.com/2013/02/20/khojaly-airport-threatens-fragile-karabakh-peace/> (accessed 27 February 2013).

[3] See <http://politcom.ru/15355.html> (accessed 27 February 2013).

PRESIDENT OBAMA, DO NOT BE AFRAID OF “KHOJALY”!

Alimardanova Tamara, Independent Expert
&

The White House's response to our petition about the Khojaly genocide speaks of some unspecified "human losses," while failing to mention Khojaly itself, a town that stood witness to the most horrendous massacre any post-Soviet locality had ever seen. Still worse, the response fails to mention the perpetrators by name, an attitude that amounts to nothing less than an appallingly evasive come-off. Is this supposed to be an "adequate response" to the voice of more than 125,000 US citizens, who approached our President—one who presents himself as a global champion of human rights—asking him to address this particular carnage, which—not even formally denounced—was so far left unprosecuted?

Washington, however, had been demonstrably capable of moving quickly and decisively on other issues. Less than a day after the release and extradition of Lt. Ramil Safarov, the Azerbaijani officer who served more than eight years in jail for murdering a uniformed officer (!) of the country (Armenia) that continues to illegally occupy his homeland and does so in cynical disregard of the UN Security Council Resolutions, the US State Department rushed to express its concern about the fully legitimate decision on extradition and pardoning. But regarding Khojaly, where 613 unarmed civilians—indeed fleeing refugees including women, children, and the elderly—were ruthlessly slaughtered—with the corpses of many mutilated in the most barbaric way—the US only responded once over the last 21 years and only did so in the most vague terms.

Such a shameful evasion is an insult to everyone who signed the petition and expected the Administration to condemn what three countries (Mexico, Colombia and Pakistan) already have officially recognized as an act of genocide, two others (the Czech Republic and Bosnia & Herzegovina) have defined as a crime against humanity, and 11 US state legislatures had denounced as a massacre (including three of them having done so within the both chambers).

If the reason behind such a formal—and ultimately empty—reply is the votes of Armenian Americans that the White House is afraid of losing, what could then justify a blatant disregard of over 125,000 individuals who have signed the Petition and who happen to be US citizens, and hence voters, as well?

We call on the US Department of State to treat separately the Khojaly Petition and the second one concerning the actions of the OSCE Minsk Group. Those are separate issues and should not be lumped together: the former is a human rights issue in need of condemnation, while the latter concerns the ongoing peace process under the tutelage of the OSCE Minsk Group.

When the troops of Ratko Mladich and Radovan Karadzic perpetrated genocide in Srebrenica, no one in the White House chose to refrain from condemning this crime in very specific terms, with the name of the town explicitly mentioned and concern about the future of the Dayton peace process openly expressed (the Srebrenica genocide and the Dayton process were two different issues and were treated as such by Western observers). No one should fail to do the same now concerning what happened in Khojaly, including treating the humanitarian dimension thereof as distinct from the political agenda of conflict resolution. The latter must not be used as a pretext for one's failure to address the former. To do so in the conditions of the 21st century is utterly unacceptable.

Washington's failure to condemn this crime allows those who perpetrated it to deny what they did, and such denials, history shows, can lead to a repetition of such horrific crimes.

President Obama, do not help those who committed this crime and now deny it by failing to talk about the crime and its perpetrators in explicit terms.

A CHRONOLOGY OF AZERBAIJAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

I. Key Government Statements on Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

The Defense Ministry says that Azerbaijan is prepared to take "all necessary measures" if Armenia begins unsanctioned flights over the territory of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/386738.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Azerbaijan is in a position to recover the occupied territories by any means, but that Baku is "against human losses" and therefore seeks a political solution (<http://news.day.az/politics/386274.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the White House declaration in response to the Azerbaijani petition campaign shows that, "the US does not have a definite position on the Khojaly genocide and remains indifferent to this crime against humanity" (<http://news.day.az/politics/386555.html>).

II. Key Statements by Others about Azerbaijan

The US White House responds to the Azerbaijani petition on the Khojaly genocide by issuing a statement that the US "expresses sincere regret in connection with the tragic cases of the loss of life during the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan" and saying that "Washington considers that the peaceful resolution of the conflict can bring stability" to the region (<http://news.day.az/politics/386426.html>).

Mohsun Pakayin, Iran's ambassador to Baku, says that placing peacekeeping forces in Nagorno-Karabakh "would create new problems for security in the region" (<http://news.day.az/politics/385393.html>).

Aleksey Vlasov, director of the Moscow Center for the Study of Social-Political Processes in the Post-Soviet Space, says that "with time," a military conflict in the occupied territories is "inevitable" (<http://news.day.az/politics/386734.html>).

III. A Chronology of Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

28 February

Vasif Talybov, president of the Supreme Council of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, receives Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili

(<http://news.day.az/politics/386862.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov says that Baku highly values the act of the Bosnia-Herzegovina parliament condemning the killing of Azerbaijanis in Khojaly (<http://news.day.az/politics/387002.html>).

Niyazi Safarov, deputy economic development minister, and Andreas Obersteller, deputy director of the European policy department of Germany's economics and technology ministry, sign an agreement expanding cooperation between Baku and Berlin in the training of managers (<http://news.day.az/economy/387030.html>).

The Foreign Ministry's Agency for International Development Assistance provides assistance for a campaign against vision loss in developing countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/387034.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Washington, speaks to a meeting of the Turkey Working Group of the US Congress on the Southern Corridor (<http://news.day.az/economy/386903.html>).

The Office of the Ombudsman issues a statement condemning the beating of two Azerbaijanis in the building of the National Assembly of France and says that this act is a black mark on France, the cradle of democracy and human rights (<http://news.day.az/politics/387132.html>).

The Azerbaijan Community of Lithuania protests the formation of a parliamentary group there supporting the so-called Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/386937.html>).

Ban Gi-Moon, secretary general of the United Nations, says that the UN supports the work of the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/387050.html>).

The French foreign ministry condemns the attack on two Azerbaijanis in the building of the National Assembly and says that, "France believes that the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is possible only by means of dialogue" (<http://news.day.az/politics/387094.html>).

Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku, meets with the leaders of Azerbaijan's political parties (<http://news.day.az/politics/387065.html>).

Henry Quellar, a US congressman from Texas, says that Azerbaijan is a model for all developing countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/386911.html>).

27 February

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva host an official dinner for Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili and Georgian First Lady Sandra Elizabeth Rulofs (<http://news.day.az/politics/386806.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Hamad Kalkaba Malboum, president of the International Military Sports Council and head of the Olympic Committee of Cameroun (<http://news.day.az/politics/386775.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Anar Imanov Azerbaijani ambassador to Hanoi (<http://news.day.az/politics/386867.html>).

Communications and Information Technology Minister Ali Abbasov says that Baku is especially interested in Asian markets (<http://news.day.az/economy/386659.html>).

The Foreign Ministry condemns the attack on two Azerbaijanis in the building of the French parliament and expresses the hope that the French authorities will move swiftly against the perpetrators (<http://news.day.az/politics/386791.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that Azerbaijan is prepared to take "all necessary measures," if Armenia begins unsanctioned flights over the territory of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/386738.html>).

Elchin Amirbayov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Paris, speaks to a meeting in Paris on the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/culture/386754.html>).

Elchin Amirbayov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Paris, says that French deputies are collecting signatures on a declaration denouncing the attack on two Azerbaijanis in the building of the French National Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/386826.html>).

Rahman Mustafayev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Greece, meets with members of the inter-parliamentary Greek-Azerbaijani Friendship Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/386782.html>).

Hasan Mammadzade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Vilnius, says that the declarations of several members of the Lithuanian parliament about Nagorno-Karabakh do not reflect the position of the Lithuanian government (<http://news.day.az/politics/386695.html>).

Eynulla Madatli, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Kyiv, addresses online a meeting in Simferopol on the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/386717.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Azerbaijan will show "decisiveness" in recovering the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/386783.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Paris meets with representatives of the French National Assembly and foreign ministry to discuss the attack on two Azerbaijanis in the building of the French parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/386788.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Paris says that Baku wants the French parliament to make a statement on the beating of two Azerbaijani activists in the parliament's building (<http://news.day.az/politics/386744.html>).

Baku hands over to Iran three Iranian fishermen who were arrested for poaching in January 2013 (<http://news.day.az/society/386684.html>).

The Azerbaijani-Hungarian Youth Organization organizes a meeting in Budapest on the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide

(<http://news.day.az/politics/386813.html>).

The Europe-Azerbaijan Society launches an Internet petition campaign calling on British Prime Minister David Cameron to condemn the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/386722.html>).

Günther Oettinger, EU Commissioner for Energy, says that the opening of the Southern Gas Corridor is a priority of the European Commission and that 2013 will become "decisive" for that project (<http://news.day.az/economy/386739.html>).

Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku, says that the White House statement and his own feelings reflect revulsion against the murder of innocent people in Khojaly and a commitment to a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/386870.html>).

Aliakber Ayatollahi, head of Iran's Mazandaran Province, arrives in Baku to discuss cross-border cooperation with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/386627.html>).

Camil Çiçek, speaker of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, receives Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/386617.html>).

Nathalie Goulet, a French parliamentarian, says that the beating of two Azerbaijanis in the building of the parliament "contradicts the principles of morality and democracy" (<http://news.day.az/politics/386809.html>).

Tim Ryan, a US congressman from Ohio, says he joins his colleagues in condemning the Khojaly tragedy (<http://news.day.az/politics/386628.html>).

A group of French deputies and senators issue a statement condemning the attack on two Azerbaijanis in the building of the French Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/386876.html>).

Juras Pojelan, head of the inter-parliamentary Azerbaijan Friendship Group in the Lithuanian Seim, says that the majority of Lithuanian deputies support Baku's position on the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/386828.html>).

Aleksey Vlasov, director of the Moscow Center for the Study of Social-Political Processes in the Post-Soviet Space, says that "with time," a military conflict in the occupied territories is "inevitable" (<http://news.day.az/politics/386734.html>).

26 February

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva lead Azerbaijan in commemorating the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/386446.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev is awarded the Order of the Republic of Serbia for his role in promoting good relations between Baku and Belgrade (<http://news.day.az/politics/386445.html>).

Culture and Tourism Minister Abulfas Garayev takes part in the UN Alliance of Civilizations meeting in Vienna (<http://news.day.az/politics/386602.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the White House declaration in response to the Azerbaijani petition campaign shows that "the US does not have a definite position on the Khojaly genocide and remains indifferent to this crime against humanity" (<http://news.day.az/politics/386555.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, welcomes the fact that the leading Turkic countries all support a call for the international community to recognize the Khojaly tragedy as Genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/386597.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mammadgulyev hands a note of protest to Vladimir Dorokhin, Russia's ambassador to Baku, concerning the status of Nagorno-Karabakh as suggested by a report in the Russian news agency, *RIA Novosti* (<http://news.day.az/politics/386600.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, meets with officials of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Germany (<http://news.day.az/politics/386517.html>).

Zakir Hashimov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Astana, speaks to a meeting at Gumilyev Eurasian National University on the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/society/386452.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Prague organizes a ceremony devoted to the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/386506.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Kyiv hosts a meeting to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/386443.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that in Khojaly, the Armenians committed both a crime of war and a crime against humanity (<http://news.day.az/politics/386480.html>).

Huseyn Najafov, Azerbaijan's consul general in Batumi, speaks to a meeting there on the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/386611.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, meets in Beijing with members of the Peoples Political Consultative Council (<http://news.day.az/politics/386587.html>).

Bahar Muradova, deputy chairman of the Milli Majlis, criticized US President Barack Obama for his failure to take a clear position on the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/386466.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that in Khojaly, the Armenians committed both a crime of war and a crime against humanity (<http://news.day.az/politics/386480.html>).

Rufat Guliyev, Iqbal Mammadov, and Aydyn Jafarov, three Milli Majlis deputies, take part in a St. Petersburg meeting of the defense security commission of the Inter-

Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS Member States
(<http://news.day.az/politics/386583.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the response of the White House to the petition on Khojaly is surprising, because it does not address the issues the petition raises (<http://news.day.az/politics/386498.html>).

Fuad Muradov, a Milli Majlis deputy, speaks at the opening in Tel Aviv of a photographic exhibit about the Khojaly genocide
(<http://news.day.az/politics/386496.html>).

Elman Rustamov, the head of the Central Bank of Azerbaijan, meets with Henry Kerali, the regional director of the World Bank for the South Caucasus, who says that the World Bank supports the measures Azerbaijan has taken to maintain economic stability and growth (<http://news.day.az/economy/386549.html>).

The Azeri Society in Riga holds a ceremony on the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/society/386720.html>).

Azerbaijanis living in various cities and regions of the Russian Federation organize meetings and demonstrations on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/society/386595.html>).

The Congress of Azerbaijanis of Ukraine organizes a protest in front of the UN and OSCE offices in Kyiv as part of the Justice for Khojaly campaign
(<http://news.day.az/politics/386518.html>).

Azerbaijanis in the Netherlands hold a demonstration in front of the Armenian embassy in the Hague in connection with the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/society/386832.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that Turkey "will never forget and never allow others to forget the Khojaly genocide"
(<http://news.day.az/politics/386505.html>).

The US White House responds to the Azerbaijani petition on the Khojaly genocide by issuing a statement that the US "expresses sincere regret in connection with the tragic cases of the loss of life during the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan" and saying that "Washington considers that the peaceful resolution of the conflict can bring stability" to the region (<http://news.day.az/politics/386426.html>).

Ismail Cosgun, Turkey's ambassador to Baku, says the attack on an Ankara exhibit on the Khojaly genocide does not reflect Turkey's attitudes and that the authorities there will bring the perpetrators to justice
(<http://news.day.az/politics/386474.html>).

Nikolay Patskevich, Belorussian ambassador to Baku, says that the Khojaly events were tragic because they involved the deaths of innocent civilians
(<http://news.day.az/politics/386477.html>).

The upper house of the parliament of Bosnia-Herzegovina passes a resolution recognizing the Khojali tragedy as genocide and an act of aggression by Armenia against Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/386605.html>).

Former Estonian President Arnold Ruutel speaks to a ceremony in Tallinn on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/386608.html>).

The legislature of the US state of Texas passes a resolution condemning Armenian actions that resulted in the Khojaly tragedy (<http://news.day.az/politics/386475.html>).

Chris Pincher, a British member of parliament, says that London must develop closer ties with Azerbaijan, a country at the crossroads of Europe and Asia and an important supplier of energy (<http://news.day.az/politics/386447.html>).

The Russian embassy in Baku says that an article carried by the Russian news agency, *RIA Novosti*, does not reflect Moscow's position on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/386603.html>).

Devlet Bakceli, the leader of the Turkish opposition Party of the National Movement, criticizes Turkish President Abdulla Gul for sending a message of congratulation to Serzh Sargsyan on his re-election as president of Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/386497.html>).

25 February

President Ilham Aliyev receives Henry Kerali, the regional director of the World Bank for the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/386371.html>).

Culture and Tourism Minister Abulfas Garayev says that Azerbaijan is seeking to become a leading tourist destination in Europe (<http://news.day.az/politics/386184.html>).

Education Minister Misir Mardanov says that relations between Azerbaijan and Kuwait are developing in all spheres (<http://news.day.az/politics/386412.html>).

Agriculture Minister Ismet Absov takes part in the International Agricultural Exhibition in Paris (<http://news.day.az/economy/386314.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Azerbaijan is proud of the fact that it is one of the few countries in the world where Christianity, Islam and Judaism peacefully coexist (<http://news.day.az/politics/386172.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Azerbaijan is in a position to recover the occupied territories by any means but that Baku is "against human losses" and therefore seeks a political solution (<http://news.day.az/politics/386274.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Moscow, says that "in the age of the Internet it is very important to receive truthful and objective information," and he urges that the CIS give annual awards to the best journalists in its member countries (<http://news.day.az/society/386281.html>).

Ilgar Mukhtarov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Mexico City, hosts a meeting devoted to the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide

(<http://news.day.az/society/386195.html>).

Azerbaijan's consulate general in St. Petersburg hosts a meeting on the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/386144.html>).

Azerbaijan's Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe holds a ceremony to mark the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/386402.html>).

Asim Mollazade and Rasim Musabayov, two Milli Majlis deputies, participate in a roundtable on Azerbaijan organized by the Agency for International Information (<http://news.day.az/politics/386368.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the number of countries who remember the victims of Khojaly as victims of genocide is constantly increasing (<http://news.day.az/politics/386348.html>).

The Heydar Aliyev Foundation and the Heydar Aliyev Center say they are committed to focusing the attention of the world on the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/386385.html>).

The Azerbaijan-American Alliance expands its campaign to secure recognition of the Khojaly tragedy as a genocide directed against Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/386329.html>).

The Center for Culture of the Azerbaijanis of Switzerland hosts a meeting to mark the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/386309.html>).

Catherine Ashton, the supreme representative of the European Union for foreign relations and security questions, says that she supports the declarations of the OSCE Minsk Group made in April 2011 and July 2012 and shares their concern that the opening of the Khojaly airport would exacerbate the situation in the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/386219.html>).

Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, the secretary general of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation, says that OIC member countries must unite in their efforts to secure international recognition of the Khojaly tragedy as genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/386190.html>).

Mikhail Gusman, director general of ITAR-Tass, says that Azerbaijan has done everything possible to bring the Khojaly massacre to the attention of the world and that the world has been horrified by "the extreme level of cruelty" that was inflicted there (<http://news.day.az/society/386344.html>).

Reshat Dogru, a deputy in Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that Turkey must recognize the Khojaly tragedy as an act of genocide by the Armenians against the Azerbaijani people (<http://news.day.az/politics/386362.html>).

The Armenian foreign ministry says media reports notwithstanding, "Armenia is not conducting negotiations with Turkey in any format" (<http://news.day.az/politics/386157.html>).

Iranian officials say shuttle trade across the Azerbaijan-Iran border has risen 33 percent over the last year (<http://news.day.az/economy/386205.html>).

24 February

President Ilham Aliyev receives Said Jalili, secretary for national security of the Islamic Republic of Iran (<http://news.day.az/politics/386127.html>).

Murad Bacar, secretary of the Turkish defense industry organization, says that Azerbaijan is welcome to take part in all of its projects (<http://news.day.az/economy/386073.html>).

23 February

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, and Ali Ahmadov, deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, speak to an international conference on obtaining justice for Khojaly (<http://news.day.az/politics/386070.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Ottawa organizes meetings in memory of the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide in a number of Canadian cities (<http://news.day.az/politics/385888.html>).

The Customs Service of Azerbaijan reaches an agreement with its Iranian counterpart in order to speed up the transit of private automobiles across the border between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/economy/385966.html>).

The Congress of Azerbaijanis of Sweden holds a meeting on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/386075.html>).

The constituent meeting of the Ukrainian Congress of Azerbaijanis takes place in Baku (<http://news.day.az/society/386058.html>).

Fifty leading Pakistani intellectuals sign an open letter calling for international condemnation of the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/386041.html>).

22 February

Vice Prime Minister Ali Hasanov says that those international organizations, including the OSCE, who declared that the Armenian elections corresponded to international standards should be ashamed of themselves (<http://news.day.az/politics/385853.html>).

Vice Prime Minister Ali Hasanov says that all those who committed genocide in Khojaly, including both Armenian leaders like Kocharyan and Sargsyan and Russian leaders like Gorbachev, should be tried by an international tribunal for crimes against humanity (<http://news.day.az/politics/385799.html>).

Vice Prime Minister Elchin Efendiyev says that many museums abroad misidentify Azerbaijani cultural objects as being the products of other nations (<http://news.day.az/society/385701.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential

Administration, criticizes Turkish President Abdulla Gul's message to Serzh Sargsyan on the latter's re-election as president of Armenia. "We condemn any support which is shown to the aggressor regime until the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is resolved, the army of the aggressor has withdrawn, and the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan has been restored" (<http://news.day.az/politics/385833.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Baku hopes that Turkey's Grand National Assembly will recognize the Khojaly tragedy as genocide especially given that the majority of OIC countries have done so (<http://news.day.az/politics/385837.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Baku hopes that US President Barack Obama will issue a clear declaration about the Khojaly genocide and the occupied territories in general (<http://news.day.az/politics/385825.html>).

Madat Guliyev, deputy justice minister and head of Azerbaijan's penitentiary system, hands over 33 Iranians who have been in Azerbaijani prisons and jails to the Iranian authorities (<http://news.day.az/society/385881.html>).

Shahin Abdullayev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Cairo, hosts a meeting on the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/385634.html>).

Elkhan Polukhov, incoming Azerbaijani ambassador to Luanda, presents his letters of credence to Angolan President Jose Eduardo des Santos (<http://news.day.az/politics/385793.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that Azerbaijanis who are angry at Turkish President Abdulla Gul's message to the Armenian president on his re-election should temper their anger by considering all that Turkey has done in support of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/385688.html>).

The Milli Majlis ratifies the agreement with Turkey on the transit of Azerbaijani gas through Turkish territory (<http://news.day.az/economy/385708.html>).

The State Committee for Work with Religious Groups, the Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno-Karabakh, and the Justice for Khojaly campaign organize a march near the ceasefire line between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces (<http://news.day.az/politics/385773.html>).

The Association of Business People of Azerbaijan and Turkey says that Azerbaijani entrepreneurs have invested 3.2 billion euros in the Turkish economy (<http://news.day.az/economy/385694.html>).

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said that the position of Paris on the Nagorno-Karabakh remains unchanged (<http://news.day.az/politics/385596.html>).

The Turkish foreign ministry says that President Abdulla Gul's message to Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan on his re-election "was made in correspondence with [Turkey's] state traditions" (<http://news.day.az/politics/385603.html>).

The US Department of State says that the tragic loss of life in the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan explains why Washington remains committed to a

negotiated settlement of the conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/385597.html>).

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin meeting with Ulrich Brandenburg, Germany's ambassador to Moscow, to discuss the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/385870.html>).

Ismail Cosgun, Turkey's ambassador to Baku, says that President Abdulla Gul's message to the president of Armenia on his re-election was simply a matter of customary protocol and should not excite comment (<http://news.day.az/politics/385812.html>).

Cho Suk-In, Korea's ambassador to Baku, calls for expanding the exchange of students between his country and Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/385781.html>).

21 February

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that Turkey must explain why President Abdulla Gul sent a message of congratulations to Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan on the occasion of the latter's re-election (<http://news.day.az/politics/385506.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that Baku has never given any diaspora organization the right to conduct negotiations on its behalf concerning the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/385517.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that Armenian statements about the opening of an airport at Khojaly in the occupied territories are typical of Yerevan's approach and may be nothing more than a testing of international opinion (<http://news.day.az/politics/385523.html>).

Abbasali Hasanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Dushanbe, meets with Tajikistan President Emomali Rakhmon (<http://news.day.az/politics/385338.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Pretoria distributes information on the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/385418.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, says that Armenia would be threatening Azerbaijan if it tried to fly planes over Azerbaijani territory without Baku's permission (<http://news.day.az/politics/385586.html>).

Fazail Aghamaly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that no matter what Turkey does, Armenia will never give up on its territorial claims against Turkey or its pursuit of international recognition of the events of 1915 as genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/385536.html>).

Zahid Orudzh, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Turkish President Abdulla Gul's decision to send a message of congratulation to Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan raises questions, but may be part of Ankara's effort to pursue its policies with "non-traditional" means (<http://news.day.az/politics/385571.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, appeals to the leaders of the world to recognize the Khojaly massacre as genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/385421.html>).

Bayram Safarov, the head of the Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh Region, says that nothing will change in Yerevan after the elections (<http://news.day.az/politics/385478.html>).

Bayram Safarov, the head of the Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh Region, says that, "without the participation of the Azerbaijani community of Nagorno-Karabakh talks about it cannot take place" (<http://news.day.az/politics/385472.html>).

Adil Bagirov, the executive director of the US Azerbaijani Network, describes his organization's efforts to secure recognition of the Khojaly massacre as genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/385704.html>).

Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku, says that the US is working on a statement about Azerbaijan, because the petition on the White House website received a sufficient number of votes (<http://news.day.az/politics/385503.html>).

Mohsun Pakayin, Iran's ambassador to Baku, says that placing peacekeeping forces in Nagorno-Karabakh "would create new problems for security in the region" (<http://news.day.az/politics/385393.html>).

Ismail Cosgun, Turkey's ambassador to Baku, says that Baku and Ankara are working together to prompt the OSCE Minsk Group to become more active (<http://news.day.az/politics/385334.html>).

Rodney Alexander, a US congressman from Louisiana, says that the launch of Azerbaijan's first satellite is the culmination of serious cooperation between the Azerbaijani government and the private sector of the United States (<http://news.day.az/politics/385321.html>).

20 February

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his UAE counterpart, Sheikh Abdulla bin Zaid al-Nahan (<http://news.day.az/economy/385299.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev meets with Milorad Dodik, president of the Republic Serbska in Bosnia-Herzegovina (<http://news.day.az/economy/385274.html>).

Deputy Ecology and Natural Resources Minister Rauf Hajiyev named to the Order of the Legion of Honor by the French government (<http://news.day.az/politics/385107.html>).

Parviz Shahbazov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Berlin, tells the German Bundestag that Azerbaijan has great potential as a tourism destination (<http://news.day.az/economy/385598.html>).

Tahir Taghizade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Prague, says that the Armenian

Diaspora have lost a battle in the Czech Republic, because the people and government there know the truth about the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/385035.html>).

Javanshir Akhundov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Tehran, says Azerbaijan will be opening a consulate in Meshed (<http://news.day.az/politics/385140.html>).

Hidayat Orujov, incoming Azerbaijani ambassador to Bishkek, presents his letters of credence to Kyrgyzstan President Almazbek Atambayev, who tells him that the time has come for the development of closer cooperation between Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan (<http://news.day.az/politics/385127.html>).

Azerbaijan's consulate general in St. Petersburg says that a fight between Russians and Azerbaijanis in that city was not an ethnic conflict, but rather the product of misunderstandings of different national traditions (<http://news.day.az/politics/385206.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia is not ready for democratic elections (<http://news.day.az/politics/385100.html>).

Azerbaijani and Iranian customs officials meet at the border to discuss improving the flow of traffic across that frontier (<http://news.day.az/politics/385153.html>).

Farhad Mammadov, the director of the Presidential Center for Strategic Research, says that the outcome of the election in Armenia was in the first instance "a victory over the Armenian people," rather than a victory by them, because it was won by a regime that relies on the force structures to keep itself in power (<http://news.day.az/politics/385228.html>).

Survivors of the Khojaly genocide appeal to the peoples and governments of the world for recognition of the crime committed against them (<http://news.day.az/politics/385148.html>).

The Union of Azerbaijani Youth of Ukraine launches its Month of Khojaly campaign (<http://news.day.az/politics/385129.html>).

The Organization of Azerbaijani Youth in Lithuania appeals to the US White House to ignore recent claims by the Armenian diaspora that the petition Azerbaijanis have filed with the White House has not been properly prepared (<http://news.day.az/politics/385165.html>).

The US Department of State supports the preliminary conclusions of the OSCE election monitors that the voting in Armenia was not without serious problems that must be investigated (<http://news.day.az/politics/385056.html>).

Serik Primbetov, outgoing Kazakhstan ambassador to Baku, says that Azerbaijan is the main political and economic partner of Kazakhstan in the Caspian region and "an authoritative, strong state which has created optimal conditions for the development of the economy and civil society" (<http://news.day.az/politics/385305.html>).

Pascual Meunier, France's ambassador to Baku, says the launch of Azerbaijan's first satellite is an important step in cooperation between Azerbaijan and France (<http://news.day.az/politics/385304.html>).

Mohsun Pakayin, Iran's ambassador to Baku, says that there are approximately 200 Iranian citizens in Azerbaijani jails and prisons and that Tehran hopes to reach an agreement for their return to Iran where they will serve the remainder of their sentences (<http://news.day.az/society/385293.html>).

The Iranian embassy in Baku says that Iranian and Azerbaijani officials are discussing the cooperative use of the reservoirs on transborder river (<http://news.day.az/economy/385181.html>).

Eduard Oswald, vice president of the German Bundestag, calls for Europe to condemn Armenian actions including Yerevan's role in the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/385117.html>).

Nathalie Goulet, a French parliamentarian, says that the result of the elections in Armenia is meaningless because of the lack of any real competition there (<http://news.day.az/politics/385072.html>).

Paolo Arbe Markes, the head of the EU general directorate on energy, says that 2013 can be considered an important one for the broadening of cooperation between Azerbaijan and the EU (<http://news.day.az/economy/385097.html>).

19 February

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev meets with Turkish President Abdulla Gul and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan (<http://news.day.az/politics/384998.html>).

Agriculture Minister Ismet Abbasov receives Mustafa Sinasir, the regional coordinator for the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), to discuss the opening of an FAO office in Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/385026.html>).

Ayaz Mutallibov, former Azerbaijani president, says that "those who killed the Khojaly residents destroyed the chance" for peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/384875.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that recent statements by Armenian leaders show that they have no interest in reaching a settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/384743.html>).

The Azerbaijani petition posted on the US White House website receives the necessary 100,000 signature that require a response by American officials (<http://news.day.az/politics/384340.html>).

The Russian Foreign Ministry says that Russia's new foreign policy concept paper, confirmed by President Vladimir Putin, reaffirms Moscow's support for the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/384812.html>).

The Czech Republic parliament's foreign relations committee approves a resolution stating that the Khojaly massacre was genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/384830.html>).

Ineze Vaiders, a Latvian deputy in the European Parliament, says that the opening of

an airport in Khojaly would seriously harm the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/384992.html>).

Alexandra Piraqiva, a Columbian parliamentarian, sends a letter to President Ilham Aliyev, expressing solidarity with the Azerbaijani people in connection with the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/384854.html>).

18 February

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives outgoing Kazakhstan Ambassador Serik Primbetov on the occasion of the completion of his assignment in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/384767.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev meets with his Turkish counterpart Ismet Yilmaz (<http://news.day.az/politics/384579.html>).

Elmira Suleymanova, Azerbaijan's ombudsman, says that the international community should bring to justice those responsible for the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/384752.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy speaks to a meeting in the Turkish city of Kars on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/384772.html>).

Fuad Muradov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenian leaders have created an atmosphere of distrust and fear during the current electoral campaign (<http://news.day.az/politics/384580.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the presidential election in Armenia is simply a game where everyone knows in advance who will win, because Armenia has never been a democracy (<http://news.day.az/politics/384428.html>).

Mammad Talybov, a counselor at the Azerbaijani embassy in Washington, publishes a letter in the Washington Post to explain Azerbaijani reactions to a novel by Akram Ayisli that the paper had discussed earlier (<http://news.day.az/politics/384623.html>).

Farhad Badalbayli, a member of the leadership of the Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno-Karabakh, says that the Armenian community there "has not demonstrated a constructive position" and has not responded to proposals for meetings and conversations (<http://news.day.az/politics/384621.html>).

The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group propose that the Azerbaijani and Armenian foreign ministers meet next week in Paris (<http://news.day.az/politics/384669.html>).

Maj.Gen. Igor Semenchenko, the senior advisor to the Russian Federation Council's defense and security committee, says that the Chicago Convention means that it would be illegal for Armenia to open the Khojaly airport without Baku's permission (<http://news.day.az/politics/384657.html>).

Roland Kobia, head of the EU representation in Azerbaijan, calls on the sides in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to observe the norms of international law and says that the opening of an airport in Khojaly in the occupied territories would violate those

norms and lead to an escalation of tensions
(<http://news.day.az/politics/384641.html>).

16 February

Labor and Social Security Minister Fizuli Alakbarov receives Nami Ata, counselor for labor and social security issues at the Turkish embassy in Baku
(<http://news.day.az/economy/384395.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that certain neighboring countries are disturbed by the stable and dynamic development of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/384463.html>).

Agelim Shukurov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Tripoli, says that Azerbaijani firms are interested in investing in Libya (<http://news.day.az/economy/384362.html>).

Note to Readers

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