

HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 26, 2014, AS THE 22^{ND} ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY IN AZERBAIJAN.

WHEREAS, the Nagorno-Karabakh War was a conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan that lasted from 1988 to 1994; and

WHEREAS, on February 25 and 26, 1992, Armenian armed forces accompanied by Russian military troops occupied the town of Khojaly in Azerbaijan and killed more than six hundred innocent civilians, including many women, children and the elderly; wounded more than one thousand civilians; and captured more than one thousand two hundred civilians; and

WHEREAS, many civilian bodies found in Khojaly after the battle were disfigured and mutilated, making this one of the most inhumane and barbaric battles of the war; and

 WHEREAS, international organizations such as Human Rights Watch documented the killings; major United States and international news organizations reported about the killings with horror; and numerous governments around the world condemned the attack; and

 WHEREAS, tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan are still running high because Armenian forces occupy twenty percent of Azerbaijan's territory, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and the surrounding seven districts; and

WHEREAS, resolutions condemning the occupation of Azerbaijan's territory by Armenian forces have been passed by the United Nations Security Council and the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, this tragic event is a sobering reminder of the terrible carnage that can be inflicted in wartime and it

exemplifies the enduring need for greater understanding, communication, and tolerance among people worldwide; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, that February 26, 2014, be recognized as the 22nd Anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy, which resulted in the deaths of more than six hundred innocent civilians in the town of Khojaly in Azerbaijan on February 26, 1992; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, Secretary of State of the United States, United States Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and Hawaii's Congressional delegation.

OFFERED BY:

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