

HOUSE RESOLUTION 48

By Towns

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the twenty-first anniversary of the Khojaly Tragedy.

WHEREAS, the Nagorno-Karabach War, lasting from 1988 to 1994, was a conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan; and

WHEREAS, on February 25 and 26, 1992, Armenian armed forces, accompanied by Russian military troops, occupied the town of Khojaly in Azerbaijan; a large group of Azerbaijani people were attempting to evacuate the area when they were fired on by the Armenian and Russian soldiers; who eventually killed over six hundred innocent civilians, including many children, women, and elderly; more than an additional one thousand people were wounded and more than one thousand two hundred civilians were held captive; and

WHEREAS, numerous civilian bodies found in Khojaly after the fight were disfigured and mutilated, making this one of the most inhumane and merciless battles of the war; and

WHEREAS, international organizations such as Human Rights Watch documented the killings in Khojaly, major United States and international news organizations reported on the horrific killings, and numerous governments around the world have condemned the attack; and

WHEREAS, to this day, the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia continues, with Armenian forces occupying 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 United Nations general assembly; and

WHEREAS, this event in Khojaly is a sobering reminder of the terrible bloodshed that can be inflicted in wartime and the enduring need for greater understanding, communication and tolerance among people the world over; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby commemorate the twenty-first anniversary of the Khojaly Tragedy in Azerbaijan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.