

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 144

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 22, 2011

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Commemorates 19th anniversary of Khojaly Tragedy.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



AR144 QUIJANO

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1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** commemorating the 19th anniversary
2 of the Khojaly Tragedy in which more than 600 people were
3 killed.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, The Nagorno-Karabakh War, lasting from 1988 to 1994,
6 was a conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the disputed
7 region of Nagorno-Karabakh; and

8 **WHEREAS**, As part of that conflict, on February 26, 1992 in Khojaly,
9 Azerbaijan, over 600 people were killed, over 1,000 disabled, and
10 over 1,200 civilians were taken hostage by Karabakh Armenian
11 forces; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Many civilian bodies found in Khojaly after the fight were
13 disfigured and mutilated, making this one of the most inhumane
14 and barbaric battles of the war; and

15 **WHEREAS**, International organizations such as Human Rights Watch
16 documented these killings and attributed responsibility for them to
17 Karabakh Armenian forces; and

18 **WHEREAS**, To this day the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia
19 continues, with Armenian forces occupying Azerbaijan territory in
20 the Nagorno-Karabakh region; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Resolutions against Armenian aggression towards
22 Azerbaijan, and the occupation of the Nagorno-Karabakh region by
23 Armenian forces have been passed by the United Nations General
24 Assembly and by the Organization of the Islamic Conference; and

25 **WHEREAS**, At the 13th session of the Organization of the Islamic
26 Conference Parliamentary Union, the Khojaly Tragedy was
27 officially recognized as an act of genocide; and

28 **WHEREAS**, February 26, 2011 marks the 19th anniversary of the
29 Khojaly Tragedy; now, therefore,

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31 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
32 Jersey:

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34 1. The General Assembly hereby commemorates the 19th
35 anniversary of the Khojaly Tragedy which occurred on February 26,
36 1992 and resulted in the needless loss of over 600 innocent lives.

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38 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the
39 Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk of the
40 General Assembly, shall be transmitted to the United States
41 Department of State and the United States Ambassador to
42 Azerbaijan.

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44 STATEMENT

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46 This resolution commemorates the Khojaly Tragedy which
47 occurred on February 26, 1992 in Khojaly, Azerbaijan. The tragedy
48 resulted in the death of over 600 people, the disabling of over 1,000

1 civilians, and over 1,200 residents being taken hostage. Human
2 Rights Watch has placed responsibility for the civilian deaths with
3 Karabakh Armenian forces. While the active hostilities of the
4 Nagorno-Karabakh War between Azerbaijan and Armenia that
5 caused this tragedy have ended, the issues giving rise to the conflict
6 remain in dispute and Armenia still occupies the Nagorno-Karabakh
7 region. The United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic
8 Conference have both passed resolutions condemning Armenian
9 aggression in the area and calling on Armenia to respect Azerbaijan
10 borders. The Organization of the Islamic Conference has even
11 officially recognized the Khojaly tragedy as an act of genocide.
12 The General Assembly commemorates the events of February 26,
13 1992 in recognition that this is a great tragedy for the Republic of
14 Azerbaijan and Azeri people around the world.