

SEMINAR

KHOJALY GENOCIDE & ETHNIC CLEANSING: A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY

FEBRUARY 27, 2025



MUSLIM Institute



MUSLIM Institute, in collaboration with the Embassy of Azerbaijan, organized a seminar at the National Library of Pakistan, Islamabad, to commemorate the Khojaly Genocide and highlight its lasting impact. The event convened diplomats, scholars, academics, and policymakers to discuss the genocide's humanitarian consequences and explore pathways to justice and accountability.

EXPERT PANELISTS:

H.E. KHAZAR FARHADOV

Ambassador of Azerbaijan to
Pakistan



H.E. IRFAN NAZIROGLU

Ambassador of Turkiye to
Pakistan



MAJ. GEN R. ZAHID MEHMOOD MALIK

Defense Analyst



PROF. DR. WASIMA SHEHZAD

Dean Faculty of Social Sciences
Air University Islamabad

AMBASSADOR (R) NAILA CHOHAN

Former Special Foreign
Secretary of Pakistan



ASIF TANVEER AWAN

Public Relations Associate,
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SUMMARY OF THE REMARKS SHARED BY THE DIGNITARIES IS AS FOLLOWS:

On the night of February 25-26, 1992, the town of Khojaly, located in the Karabakh region, became the site of one of the most brutal genocidal acts in modern history. The attack, carried out by Armenian armed forces, resulted in the massacre of hundreds of Azerbaijani civilians. The atrocities committed that night are widely recognized as an act of ethnic cleansing, as the attackers systematically targeted the Azerbaijani population in Khojaly with the intent of eradicating them from their ancestral lands. The brutality of the massacre was staggering—over 600 innocent people were killed, including women, children, and the elderly, while thousands more were injured, displaced, or taken hostage.

The surviving victims of the Khojaly Genocide, many of whom endured unimaginable hardships, continue to bear the emotional and physical scars of an atrocity that remains a painful and unresolved tragedy. The massacre serves as a stark reminder of the catastrophic consequences of ethnic violence and hatred. Its memory endures in the collective consciousness of the Azerbaijani people and the broader international community, urging not only reflection on the past but also a pursuit of justice for the present-day atrocities in Gaza.



The Khojaly Genocide is a critical happening in Azerbaijan's modern history. It symbolizes not only the immense human suffering endured by the Azerbaijani people but also their broader struggle for territorial integrity and the protection of civilian lives in the face of external aggression. Thousands of Azerbaijani families were forcibly displaced from their homes in Karabakh and surrounding regions, where their ancestors had lived for centuries. Despite these overwhelming challenges, Azerbaijan has consistently pursued a peaceful resolution to the conflict while affirming its right to defend its territory and protect its citizens. The recognition of the Khojaly Genocide is a crucial step toward achieving justice for the victims and holding the responsible, accountable.

There is a pressing need for justice of such heinous crimes through international legal instruments and institutions. While many instances of genocide have been recognized globally, the international community has often been slow to act when political or strategic interests are at stake. Like other atrocities, the Khojaly Genocide demands a clear and unequivocal response that prioritizes justice for the victims over political or any other considerations. Acknowledging genocidal acts is not merely about issuing statements of condemnation; it requires concrete action to ensure that such crimes are neither repeated nor go unpunished.

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Muslim world should uphold international moral principles and work towards combating **Islamophobia**

Continued efforts are needed to support the survivors and their families. While recognition is a crucial first step, it must be accompanied by tangible measures to address the ongoing suffering of the victims. Many survivors still live with the trauma of that night, seeking justice and the return of the remains of their loved ones. Some families continue to search for closure, hoping to give their deceased relatives a dignified burial.

Education plays a crucial role in preventing future genocides and fostering a global culture of tolerance and respect. Without proper education and awareness, the lessons of Khojaly might be lost, leaving future generations unable to fully grasp the devastating impact of ethnic violence. Preserving the memory of Khojaly is the responsibility of the international community, ensuring that the atrocities committed there are never forgotten. Efforts are needed to raise the awareness of the Khojaly Genocide through diplomatic channels, media campaigns, and educational initiatives.

Cooperation among Azerbaijan, Türkiye, and Pakistan is critical. These nations have long stood in solidarity with Azerbaijan, and their continued support is essential in ensuring that the memory of Khojaly and the struggles of the Azerbaijani people will never be forgotten. Their cooperation in pursuing justice for Khojaly sends a strong message to the international community: ethnic violence and genocide must not be tolerated, and we must all work together to ensure a future where peace, dignity, and human rights are protected for all people, regardless of their ethnicity, religion, or nationality.

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OIC must become more effective in addressing critical issues such as the **Gaza genocide, the Kashmir dispute, the Cyprus issue, and the Khojaly genocide.**

Bir kardeş sağında, biri solunda,
Tutarız gücü kolunda.

Kardeş meşalesi yanar yolunda,
Yaşa, çok yaşa, can Azerbaycan!

Turkiye, Pakistan, and Azerbaijan stand together in
unity and brotherhood.

At the end of the seminar interactive session was
also held and participants observed a moment of
silence to honor the victims of the Khojaly Genocide.

INTERACTIVE SESSION:



The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was
founded to safeguard Muslim interests worldwide. It
plays a crucial role in strengthening the position of
the Muslim world. The OIC has passed numerous
resolutions and maintains an international
presence through forums such as the Jammu and
Kashmir Contact Group and the Armenian
Aggression Contact Group. It serves as a platform for
Muslim nations to exchange views and express
solidarity with one another.

However, the OIC must become more effective in addressing critical issues such as the Gaza genocide, the Kashmir dispute, the Cyprus issue, and the Khojaly genocide. Muslim countries must enhance their global relevance by actively engaging with international organizations. Additionally, the Muslim world should uphold international moral principles and work towards combating Islamophobia.

There are promising prospects for cooperation between Azerbaijan, Turkiye, and Pakistan in fostering a prosperous future. Strengthening this trilateral partnership is essential, and various mechanisms exist at different levels to facilitate this collaboration.



CONTACT US



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