

PRINCIPAL ACTORS OF KHOJALI GENOCIDE

Ata ATUN
Near East University & SAMTAY Foundation
Nicosia, North Cyprus

Introduction

On the night of February 25, 1992 Armenian and Soviet troops attacked the Azeri town of Khocali in the Khojali Rayon of Azerbaijan. The inhabitants of the town attempted to escape from the extermination and flee from the invasion. The invaders cut all escape routes for civilians in the city and the roads leading to nearby forestry and fields¹.

On this black and bloodiest date, the Azerbaijani-Armenian war in Daghligh Karabagh ended with a brutal massacre performed by ruthless Armenians. Total of 613 people were killed, 1,000 peaceful people of different ages became invalid, 106 women, 63 children, and 70 old men were killed, eight families were completely annihilated, 130 children lost one parent, while 25 lost both of them, 1275 peace residents were taken hostages and the fate of 150 of them is still unknown².

The fallen of Khocali may not number in the thousands, but the victims were as innocent as newborn babies, infants, children, girls and woman, elderly people with no arms or even not knowing in any way to use any kind of a weapon.

The documents and the information before and aftermath of this inhuman incident were enough to characterize it as “Genocide”³.

In Khojali the world must know this crime is directed not only against the Azerbaijan nation, but also the whole civilized world and mankind.

The facts prove that the intentional extermination of the Azerbaijanis living in the Khojali town was directed at their mass extermination only because of their nationality. Khojali was chosen on purpose as a start point for further hostility, invasion and the ethnic cleansing of the Azerbaijani lands.

Over a million innocent Azerbaijani immigrants still live even after long years over the Khojali massacre, under harsh conditions where they could barely shed in luggage wagons, barns, tent stations, houses-in-built and other unhealthy places not fit to live humanly because of the ruthless Armenian assault on February 25-26, 1992 to the town of Khojali⁴.

The crime should not remain without punishment. Armenian military-political aggression must be condemned by the world community. International organizations and parliaments of the world states must give a political-legal appraisal of the Khojali genocide, which is a bloody military crime and an offense against the right to live of civilian human beings, committed by the Armenian Republic in the Azerbaijan territories.

The Core of the Issue

Zori Balayan⁵ is one of the founding fathers of the greater Armenia ideology. In 1996 he wrote a book about the “Revival of the Armenian Soul” and gave a blunt description of the Khocali massacre. Recounting how Armenian soldiers nailed an Azeri child to a window and watched him die.

It was indicated by the Armenian authorities that the Azerbaijani population living in Khocali were being destroyed just for being Turks. The speech, which revealed the hatred

sentiments of the ones, who committed genocide at Khocali, was delivered by Serzh Sargsyan⁶, at the time when he was the Prime Minister of Armenia and a candidate for the presidency.

When English journalist Thomas de Vaal⁷ asked the reason of the Khocali genocide to Serzh Sargsyan, the Minister of Defense of Armenia of the related period, Sargsyan replied as following; “We do not wish to speak loud on this issue. Until Khocali, Azerbaijan never thought we would assault civilians, however, at Khocali we broke that cliché. Also, we should admit the fact that our attack units in Khocali were composed of the Armenians, who ran away from Baku and Sumgait.”

While police Chief Valeri Babayan⁸ was saying: “The attack units in Khocali were composed of the Armenians, who ran away from Sumgait and other regions”, actually, he confirmed what Sargsyan had told.

The Armenians who left Azerbaijan felt hatred and were full of revenge sentiments towards Turkish origin Azerbaijanis and they found the chance to express these sentiments at Khocali⁹. The statement of Sargsyan is, in fact, the expression of a special “Revenge Brigade” that was formed with the Armenians, who had emigrated from Azerbaijan against the people of Khocali by the Armenians.

The Principal Actors of the Khojali Genocide

The “Principal Actors” of the Khocali Genocide are the Levon Ter-Petrosyan¹⁰ and Serzh Sargsyan with no doubt.

Levon Ter-Petrosyan was elected as the first President of Armenia on 16th of October 1991. He was graduated from the Oriental Studies Department of Yerevan State University in 1968. He completed his postgraduate studies at the Leningrad oriental Studies Institute. Ter-Petrosyan became well known in Armenian politics with his leadership of Karabakh Committee, which aimed to put Dagligh Karabakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) under the jurisdiction of Armenia. He was arrested together with other members of the Committee on 10th of December 1988.

In 1989, he was elected member of the Board of the Armenian National Movement¹¹ (ANM) and then he became the Chairman of the Board.

When Ter-Petrosyan became the President of the Republic of Armenia, the Dagligh Karabakh conflict was the major issue for Armenian foreign policy.

In the year 1988 an Azerbaijani population as much as 250,000 was expelled from Armenia and Armenia became a mono-ethnic state¹². The Daghligh Karabakh events, which began in 1988 along with continuous efforts to implement the Armenian desire of building a state from sea to sea, led to the destruction of Azerbaijanis towns and villages, the murder of thousands of innocent Azerbaijani people, as well as the exile of hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis from their native lands¹³ in the year 1992.

Ter-Petrosyan appointed Serzh Sargsyan as a Defense Minister in August 1993. Serzh Sargsyan was a member of parliament in Armenia and Karabakh at the time.

Serzh Sargsyan¹⁴ was born on June 30, 1954 in Khankendi, Daghligh Karabakh (then the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast within Soviet Azerbaijan). He was admitted to Yerevan State University in 1971, served in the Soviet Armed Forces during 1971-72, and graduated from the Philological Department of Yerevan State University in 1979.

Sargsyan’s career began in 1975 at the Electrical Devices Factory in Yerevan, where he worked as a metal turner until 1979 when he became head of the Khankendi City Communist Party Youth Association Committee. Then served as second secretary, first secretary, the

Khankendi City Committee Propaganda Division Head, the Daghligh-Karabakh Regional Committee Communist Organizations' Unit Instructor, and finally as the assistant to Genrikh Poghosyan, the First Secretary of the Daghligh-Karabakh Regional Committee.

As tensions rose over Nagorno-Karabakh between Armenians and Azerbaijanis, Sargsyan became chairman of the Daghligh-Karabakh Republic Self-Defense Forces Committee and was subsequently elected to the Supreme Council of Armenia in 1990. He organized several battles in the Daghligh-Karabakh War and is considered to be one of the founders of Daghligh-Karabakh's and Armenia's armed forces.

He became the Armenian defense minister in 1993, head of Armenian state security department in 1995 and minister of national security in 1996. In 1999, he became Robert Kocharyan's "Chief of Staff", then secretary of the national security council, defense minister, and prime minister in 2007. He won the February 2008 presidential election with the backing of the conservative Republican Party of Armenia, a party in which he serves as chairman, and took office in April 2008.

Serzh Sargsyan was the chair of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Self-Defense Forces Committee in 1992. During his era Armenian military forces committed genocides in the town of Khojali with a population of seven thousand people on February 26, 1992¹⁵.

The team members of the Principal Actors

Armenian troops strengthened by 366th Mechanized Infantry Regiment of the Russian Army attacked the town Khojali on the night of February 25, 1992 and occupied the defenseless town in 36 hours committing one of the most heinous, ruthless and bloody crime in the human history¹⁶.

The 2nd battalion of the 366th regiment under the command of Major Oganyan Seyran Mushegovich, now the Defence Minister of the illegal regime in Daghligh Karabakh, the 3rd battalion under the command of Yevgeniy Nabokhin, the staff chief of the 1st Battalion Chitchyan Valeriy and more than 50 officers and ensigns, serving in the regiment took part in the attack¹⁷.

The officially recorded names¹⁸ and ranks of the privates and officers of the 366th Regiment are as follows.

1. Zarvigorov Yuri Yuriyevich, Colonel, Commander of the Regiment
2. Chitchyan Valeriy Asaakovich, Lieutenant Colonel, The staff chief of 1st Battalion
3. Atyriyan Vachagan Grigoryevich, Colonel
4. Oganyan Seyran Mushegovich, Major
5. Arutyunov Aleksander Aleksandrovich, Colonel, Second-in-command of 2nd Battalion
6. Agopyan Nerses Grantovich, Senior Lieutenant, commander of the Troops of 1st Bat.
7. Arutyunyan Vladislav Vladimirovich, Captain
8. Baylaryan Armen Volodiyevich, Technician, 1st Troop
9. Ayrapetyan Vachik Gurgonovich, Sergeant, 3rd Troop
10. Mirzoyan Vachik Grantovich, Sergeant, 3rd Troop
11. Shikhanyan Andrew Artyushevich, Organization Commander of 1st Battalion
12. Khachaturyan, Senior Sergeant, 6th Troop
13. Abramyan V. V., Senior Technician, 2nd Troop
14. Baylaryan Sergei Yurikovich, Commander of Troop, 2nd Battalion
15. Danilyan armen Barinovich, Senior Sergeant, 7th Troop
16. Avanesyan, Senior technician, 2nd Troop
17. Zacharian, Commander, Anti-aircraft Troop
18. Baghdasaryan Valeri, Senior Sergeant, Tank Troop

19. Kisabayyan Grigoriy Akopovich, Commander of Communications Troop
20. Arustamyan, Senior technician, Communications Troop
21. Amelyan Garik, Chief Cook, Refectory
22. Avenesyan Robik, Chief of Provisions Store
23. Arutyunyan Kamo Rafaelovich, Commander, Mechanical Service Squad
24. Musa Elyan, Commander, Mechanical Service Squad
25. Sarkisian Alexander, Senior Technician, Mechanical Service Squad
26. Osipov Yuri, Chief of Store, Rockets and Artillery Depot
27. Simonyan Valeri, Senior Sergeant, Provisions Supply Squad
28. Petrosyan Ashod, Chief of Secret Service
29. Nabokikh Yevgeniy, Colonel, Commander of 3rd Battalion (Wife Armenian)
30. Likhodey Igor Ivanovich, Commander of Artillery
31. Miroshnichenko Igor, Senior Lieutenant, Commander of Provisions Troop
32. Smagin, Lieutenant, Commander of Tank Troop
33. Kuznetsov Andrew, Lieutenant, Commander of Chemical Defense Troop
34. Garmash Victor, Senior Lieutenant, Commander of Tank Troop
35. Belyazin, Lieutenant, Commander of Tank Troop
36. Mirmehdiyev, Senior Lieutenant, Commander of 3rd Troop
37. Fotimski, Captain, Commander of 3rd Troop, 2nd Battalion
38. Bugayenko, Lieutenant, Commander of 4th Troop, 2nd Battalion
39. Potapov, Captain, Commander of 4th Troop, 2nd Battalion
40. Krut, Captain, Commander of 6th Troop, 2nd Battalion
41. Savintsev, Captain, Commander of 5th Troop, 2nd Battalion
42. Dobranski, Captain, Intelligence Commander of 4th Troop, 2nd Battalion
43. Bobolev, Captain, Base Commander of 2nd Troop
44. Minin, Captain, Second-in-Command, 2nd Troop
45. Tevosyan, Lieutenant, Commander of 5th Troop, 2nd Battalion
46. Bogachev, Senior Lieutenant, Officer of 3rd Battalion
47. Kurchatov, Senior Lieutenant, Officer of 3rd Battalion
48. Maftullin, Senior Lieutenant, Officer of 3rd Battalion
49. Kuzmanovich, Senior Lieutenant, Officer of 3rd Battalion
50. Ivanov, Captain, Officer of 3rd Battalion
51. Matveyev, Captain, Commander of Artillery, 3rd Battalion

Among the aggressors were the Ex-Police Chief of town of Khankendi Armo Abramyan, Ex-Police Chief of town of Askeran Mavrik Gukasyan, Ex-Vice Police Chief of town of Askeran Shagen Barsegyan and Ex Principal of town of Henkhendi Prison Serjik Kocharyan.

Conclusion

The crime should not remain without punishment. Armenian military-political aggression must be condemned by the world community. All of the above mentioned people and also those who gave directions to commit genocide must be held responsible and taken into court for a trial.

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