



## REGION

# Aliyev opened a monument dedicated to the "Khojaly Genocide"

Heghine Bunityan February 26, 2026



Ilham Aliyev in Khojaly, archive

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and his wife and family members today unveiled a monument dedicated to the Khojaly genocide, Azerbaijani media reported.

Before that, Ilham Aliyev had also posted on his on his X page.

The Azerbaijani state agency Azertac has also been circulating reports since morning about "the prime minister, parliament leaders, prosecutors, and other officials who paid tribute to the victims of the genocide and visited the monument."

"Today we are talking about peace, all the initiatives and leadership in that process came from Azerbaijan. At the same time, we do not forget our history," said Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov.

Turkish officials have also issued statements. "We will never forget this inhuman massacre, the pain of which we will always feel in our hearts," said President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. "Turkey will always stand by Azerbaijan," said Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan. The Turkish Ministry of Defense has also issued a statement of condolences on social media with the hashtag "One Nation, Two States."

According to Azerbaijani state media, events dedicated to the day also took place in other countries, including Finland, Canada, and the United States. It is noted that all those events were held with the support of the Azerbaijani government, particularly the State Committee for Work with the Diaspora. The Ukrainian ambassador to Azerbaijan also issued a statement: "On this tragic day, we honor the memory of the innocent victims of the Khojaly genocide, we bow our heads to their memory."

The Azerbaijani side claims that 34 years ago, on the night of February 25-26, 1992, as a result of the Armenian attack, Khojaly was razed to the ground, hundreds of people, including women and children were killed, and several dozen disappeared. The Armenian side did not deny the fact of bloodshed, at the same time claiming that during the hostilities, a humanitarian corridor was provided for the civilian population, but some Azerbaijani forces opened fire on those leaving the city in order to undermine the positions of then-President Mutalibov.

In 2005, Azerbaijani journalist Eynulla Fatullayev wrote after talking to Azerbaijanis who had left Khojaly: "They confessed that a few days before the attack, Armenians had been warning over loudspeakers about the planned operation and offering civilians to leave the settlement, to escape the blockade along the Karkar River, through a humanitarian corridor.

The corridor actually existed, otherwise the Khojaly residents, completely surrounded and cut off from the outside world, could not have broken through the ring and escaped the blockade. Some of the Khojaly residents, for some unknown reason, headed towards Nakhichevanik, which was under Armenian control. It seems that the Popular Front battalions were not striving to save the Khojaly residents, but to overthrow Mutalibov through bloodshed."

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