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### **31 MART QAN YADDAŞIMIZ**

#### **Xülasə**

Hər bir xalqın tarixində faciələr, qırğınlarla dolu səhifələr mövcuddur, lakin həmin xalq o zaman gələcəyə inamla irəliləyir, o zaman güclü olur, o zaman zəfər çalır ki, Ulu Öndər Heydər Əliyevin də qeyd etdiyi kimi, tarixi hadisələrə biganə yanaşmasın, faciələrdən nəticə çıxarmağı bacarsın. Artıq bu gün bütün dünya Ümummilli Lider Heydər Əliyevin siyasətini uğurla davam etdirən və onu daha da gücləndirən Azərbaycan Prezidenti, Ali Baş Komandan, Qalib Lider İlham Əliyevin rəhbərliyi ilə rəşadətli ordumuzun tarixi hadisələrə layiqli qiymət verdiyinin şahidi oldu. Azərbaycan xalqı son 200 il ərzində erməni millətçi-şovinstlərinin davamlı olaraq etnik təmizləmə, soyqırım siyasətinə məruz qalmışdır. Azərbaycan xalqı tarixi torpaqlarından qovulmuş, qaçqına, məcburi köçkünə çevrilmiş və bütün bunlar ermənilər tərəfindən kütləvi qırğınlarla müşayiət olunmuşdur. Hər bir Azərbaycan vətəndaşı da xalqımızın başına gətirilən faciələri unutmamalı, həqiqətlərin, o cümlədən 1918-ci ilin martında baş vermiş hadisələrin gələcək nəsillərə və dünya ictimaiyyətinə çatdırılması üçün əlindən gələni etməlidir.

**Açar sözlər:** tarix, faciə, qan yaddaşı, soyqırım, müstəqil dövlət.

**SEVDA KHALILOVA**

### **OUR BLOOD MEMORY 31 MARCH SUMMARY**

There are pages full of tragedies and massacres in the history of every nation, but then that nation moves forward with confidence in the future, then becomes strong, then triumphs, so that, as noted by the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev, it should not be indifferent to historical events, but should be able to draw conclusions from tragedies. Today, the whole world has witnessed that our brave army under the leadership of President of Azerbaijan, Commander-in-Chief, Victorious Leader Ilham Aliyev, who successfully continued the policy of National Leader Heydar Aliyev and strengthened it even more, gave a worthy assessment to the historical events. During the last 200 years, the people of Azerbaijan have been continuously subjected to the policy of ethnic cleansing and genocide by the Armenian nationalist-chauvinists. The people of Azerbaijan were driven out of their historical lands, turned into refugees and internally displaced persons, and all this was accompanied by mass massacres by the Armenians. Every citizen of Azerbaijan should not forget

the tragedies that befell our nation, and should do everything possible to convey the truth, including the events of March 1918, to future generations and the world community.

**Keywords:** history, tragedy, blood memory, genocide, independent state.

**СЕВДА ХАЛИЛОВА**  
**НАША КРОВНАЯ ПАМЯТЬ 31 МАРТА**  
**РЕЗЮМЕ**

В истории каждого народа есть страницы, полные трагедий и массовых убийств, но затем этот народ движется вперед с уверенностью в будущем, затем становится сильным, затем торжествует, так что, как заметил Великий Лидер Гейдар Алиев, этого не должно быть. равнодушен к историческим событиям, но должен уметь делать выводы из трагедий. Сегодня весь мир стал свидетелем того, что наша храбрая армия под руководством Президента Азербайджана, Главнокомандующего, Победоносного лидера Ильхама Алиева, успешно продолжившая политику общенационального лидера Гейдара Алиева и еще больше укрепившая ее, дала достойную оценку. к историческим событиям. На протяжении последних 200 лет азербайджанский народ постоянно подвергался политике этнической чистки и геноцида со стороны армянских националистов-шовинистов. Азербайджанский народ был изгнан со своих исторических земель, превращен в беженцев и вынужденных переселенцев, и все это сопровождалось массовыми убийствами со стороны армян. Каждый гражданин Азербайджана не должен забывать трагедии, постигшие наш народ, и должен сделать все возможное, чтобы донести правду, в том числе о событиях марта 1918 года, до будущих поколений и мирового сообществ

**Ключевые слова:** история, трагедия, кровавая память, геноцид, независимое государство

In the last two hundred years, along with many glorious pages, pages full of tragedies, genocides and calamities have been written in the history of Azerbaijan. One of these terrible events took place in March-April 1918. Although continuous attempts were made to erase the people's blood memory for about 70 years during the Soviet rule, it was not possible, and finally the moment of truth arrived.

After Azerbaijan regained its state independence, an opportunity arose to present an objective picture of the historical past of our nation. Now the truths, which have been kept secret for many years, are revealed one by one. The great leader Heydar Aliyev's Decree "On the Genocide of Azerbaijanis" dated March 26, 1998, giving a political and legal assessment to the acts of genocide gave an impetus to the research conducted in this field and to increasing the efforts towards uncovering the truth. March 31 was declared the Genocide Day of Azerbaijanis in order to celebrate all the genocide tragedies committed against the people of Azerbaijan

The March genocides of 1918 are one of the bloodiest tragedies not only in the history of Azerbaijan, but also in human history due to their cruelty and scale.

Taking advantage of the opportunity, Armenians put thousands of people through swords and bayonets and burned them alive, not to mention children, old people and women. They destroyed national architectural pearls, schools, hospitals, mosques and other monuments. They turned a large part of Baku into ruins. Genocide of Azerbaijanis was carried out with special cruelty not only in Baku, but also in Shamakhi, Guba districts, Karabakh, Zangezur, Nakhchivan, Lankaran, Ganja and other regions. Civilians were massacred in these areas, towns and villages were burned, and national cultural monuments were destroyed.

After the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the Council of Ministers on July 15, 1918, decided to establish an Extraordinary Investigation Commission to investigate this tragedy. The commission investigated the March genocide - the atrocities in Shamakhi at the initial stage, the serious crimes committed by Armenians in the territory of Yerevan governorate. A special institution was created under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to convey these truths to the world community. March 31 was declared a national day of mourning by the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. With this, for the first time in history, an attempt was made to give a political assessment to the processes of genocide against Azerbaijanis and occupation of our lands, which lasted for more than a century. However, the fall of the Republic interrupted the work started in this field.

Genocides of Armenians against Azerbaijanis were repeated again at the end of the 20th century. In February 1992, the Armenians took an unprecedented attack on the people of Khojaly city. This bloody tragedy resulted in the destruction of thousands of Azerbaijanis, their capture, and the destruction of the city. Today, more than one million of our compatriots have been displaced from their native homes as a result of the adventurist movement of nationalist-separatist Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh. During the occupation of 20 percent of our territory by Armenian armed forces, thousands of our citizens were martyred. In that historical decree of the great leader Heydar Aliyev, separate stages of the genocide policy carried out by the Armenians against the Azerbaijanis are brought to attention. It is noted that, as the successor of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the Republic of Azerbaijan today accepts the duty of giving a political assessment to the events of the genocide as a logical continuation of the decisions that it could not implement until the end, as a judgment of history.

As the pages of history are turned, new facts and jaw-dropping scenes of Armenian brutality are revealed. Recently, searches have been expanded in the direction of information clarification. Undeniable archival documents, numerous evidences confirming the genocides are revealed.

For example, regarding the number of people killed in Shamakhi in March-April 1918, some reports indicate that this number is 7,000, others 8-12, or even 40,000. In the documents of the Extraordinary Investigation Commission created by the government of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, it was mentioned that 3632 men, 1771 women, and 956 children were brutally killed during the attack of Armenians on 58 villages inhabited by Azerbaijanis in Shamakhi district in March-

April 1918. However, according to experts' calculations based on other archival documents, 8027 Azerbaijanis were killed in 53 villages of Shamakhi district. Of them, 4190 were men, 2560 were women, and 1277 were children. According to another source, Armenians killed 7 thousand people, including 1653 women and 965 children, in 72 villages of Shamakhi. It was confirmed by the Extraordinary Investigation Commission that 86 out of 120 villages in Shamakhi district were attacked by Armenians. Since the commission stopped its work, it was not possible to collect information about other 34 villages.

Since the 90s of the last century, local researchers have also conducted a number of studies to determine the number of those killed in Shamakhi in March-April 1918. As a result of their research (memoirs and information collected from about a hundred witnesses), it was determined that under the leadership of the Armenian criminals - S.Shaumyan, S.Lalayev, Z.Arestisyan, T.Amirov and A.Amiryan brothers, approximately 14-16 thousand were killed in the city of Shamakhi. 6-8 thousand people were killed in its 40 villages and hamlets. The number of people displaced by the Shamakhi accident was more than 18,000.

N. Narimanov wrote about the Shamakhi massacre: "The armed groups of T. Amirov and S. Lalayev, who were previously in Baku, killed all Azerbaijanis regardless of age and gender. They committed a crime that had not yet been seen in the world, they put children to bayonets and swords, gathered people in the mosque, poured kerosene and burned them. It became clear to me that the Soviet power in Baku depends on the Dashnaks. It is also clear that after so much oppression of the Azerbaijani population by the Armenian gangs, the Azerbaijani proletariat had the right to turn away from the Soviet power, come under the ownership of its own bourgeoisie, and expect help from it and Turkey."

German A.Y. Kluge, who was a witness of those terrible days, noted that the Armenians broke into the Muslim (Azerbaijani) neighborhoods and killed everyone, dismembered them with swords, and pierced them with bayonets. A few days after the massacre, 87 bodies of Azerbaijanis, who were taken out of a pit, had their ears and noses cut off, their stomachs ripped open, and their genitals chopped off. Armenians did not feel sorry for children, nor did they feel sorry for the elderly.

M.A. Rasulzadeh wrote with reference to A.Y. Kluge: "The photos taken by Kluge and other foreigners as souvenirs of those days and available today reflect very tragic scenes. On a heap of dead boys and girls, old shepherd dogs are gnawing on these innocent puppies... A naked woman is lying on the ground, dead... a live puppy is sucking the dried breast of this dead body...".

More than 12,000 people, the majority of whom were civilians and mostly Muslims, were brutally murdered in Baku in just one week. Bolshevik-Dashnak groups did not even allow Azerbaijanis to bury their dead relatives. They threw the bodies into burning buildings, into wells and into the sea. The establishment of the full power of the Baku Soviet led by Shaumyan in Baku did not allow the exact number of victims to be calculated. However, according to the Iranian consul in Baku, Mohammad Said-ol Vesara Maraghei, only the special commission created by

him collected and buried more than 5,000 Muslim corpses from the streets and yards of Baku. The Menshevik newspaper "Nash Golos" described those days as follows: "Everywhere is full of corpses - burnt, dismembered, disfigured corpses...".

In the document sent to London by British Brigadier General R. Gorton dated December 8, 1918, it is stated that 20,000 Muslims were subjected to genocide, 30,000 in the documents of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry, and more than 50,000 in the book published by the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Probably, these are not the last numbers either.

A. Topchubashov, the head of the Azerbaijani delegation at the Paris Peace Conference, in his address to the US President W. Wilson dated May 28, 1919, presented to him, along with other documents, the materials of the Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry. After that, it was considered appropriate to send a US delegation to the South Caucasus to collect objective information. In the summer of that year, General Harbord, who was sent to Baku, met with various people to collect objective information about the events. In general, Russian and Armenian organizations operating in Baku obstructed the normal work of the Extraordinary Investigative Commission and organized pressure campaigns. But despite all the difficulties, the commission was able to do a lot of work in a short period of time.

History repeated itself 74 years later. On the night of February 25-26, 1992, another terrible genocide took place in the city of Khojaly, Azerbaijan, which was a continuation of the bloody massacres committed by Armenians from time to time. During the attack, 613 of the 3 thousand people in the city, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 old people, were killed with special cruelty, 487 people, including 76 children, were seriously injured, 1275 people were taken hostage and subjected to humiliating torture.

The state of Azerbaijan is taking all necessary steps in order to convey the truth about Khojaly to the world, to recognize this tragedy as an act of genocide against our people. Targeted activity in this field was started after national leader Heydar Aliyev returned to political power in Azerbaijan. On the initiative of the Great Leader, the Khojaly Genocide was given a political and legal assessment, and February 26 was declared the Khojaly Genocide Day. "Justice to Khojaly!" initiated in 2008 by Leyla Aliyeva, the vice-president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. international campaign constitutes a special stage in the propaganda work in this direction. Terrible facts about the tragedy are conveyed to the international community within the framework of this campaign, millions of people in all corners of the planet get to know the true face of Armenian nationalists, and the number of states and international organizations that recognize the Khojaly tragedy as genocide is increasing. It is enough to mention only one fact that the executive and legislative bodies of more than twenty states of the United States have strongly condemned the Khojaly tragedy as a massacre.

Many new facts and documents have been collected thanks to the research conducted over the years since the historical Decree of the great leader Heydar Aliyev, and a mass grave was discovered in the city of Guba. The revealed historical

facts prove that the geography of the bloody actions carried out by Armenian nationalists in March-April 1918 and in subsequent periods was much wider and the number of tragic victims was much greater.

According to the Decree signed by President Ilham Aliyev on January 28, 2018, the 100th anniversary of the 1918 genocide of Azerbaijanis was widely celebrated not only in Azerbaijan, but also by our compatriots living in many corners of the world, diaspora organizations, and embassies abroad.

Today we are restoring our territorial integrity and sovereign rights. We have started reconstruction works in our native lands, which were destroyed and ruined by the Armenian fascists, soon these places will return to life. However, we must never forget the historical tragedies experienced by our people. These events are the most important pages of our history of honor and struggle, our blood memory. Open museums and monuments reflecting Armenian fascism, Armenian terrorism, and genocide should be created in our lands freed from occupation, both for the future generation and for the world community.

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**Rəyçi: filologiya üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru, dosent S. Vəliyeva**