

31 years old bloody pain of the independence of Azerbaijan, which healed from 44 days of world war

Arif Jamil Oglu Guliyev*

National Aviation University, Chairman of the Board of the Public Diplomacy Institute

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ABSTRACT

Herein, the author portrayed his perspectives on what has transpired in Azerbaijan three decades later after a major world war.

KEYWORDS

Independence; world war; Nation; bloody

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR*

Professor Arif Jamil Oglu Guliyev

INTRODUCTION

Azerbaijanis around the world annually celebrate the Day of National Mourning on January 20. The bloody January 1990 events in Baku are a crime directed not only against the Azerbaijani people, but also against all humanity in general, against humanism and individual freedom. Soviet troops entered Baku with almost the same ferocity with which they entered Budapest in 1956 and Prague in 1968.

Similar acts of vandalism and genocide perpetrated by the totalitarian communist regime took place during perestroika in Alma-Ata (1986), Tbilisi (1989), Dushanbe (1990), Vilnius and Riga (1991). Each time, returning to this topic, I do not set myself the goal of a global investigation of these crimes, but nevertheless I consider it my civic duty to remind about them, name the reasons, consequences, names of organizers and main perpetrators, which should be a warning against such crimes in the future.

Cold bloody winter the events of January are not only one of the most tragic pages in the history of Azerbaijan, like the "black" or "bloody" January, but also one of the bloodiest acts of the repressed regime in all the years of Soviet power.

"Black January: we must know the whole truth" quotes the words of the outstanding French philosopher and educator Charles de Montesquieu "The cruelest tyranny is the one that appears under the canopy of legality and under the flag of justice." These words very clearly define the essence of the tragic events of 1990, when Soviet troops were brought into Baku to retain the power of the Communist Party in the country.

Black January became an unbearable pain for the Azerbaijani people. However, this terrible pain was also the pain of other nationalities of the peoples of Azerbaijan. At the beginning of January 1990, a wave of rallies and rallies swept through the cities and regions of Azerbaijan, at which a resolute protest of the people against the actions of the neighboring republic was heard loudly. Everyone asked the question: why did the country's top leadership verbally proclaim the inviolability of the borders of the republic, but in fact did not ensure the inviolability of these borders and the sovereignty of Azerbaijan?

Why are the actions of Armenian separatists and extremists not suppressed in the most decisive way by the force of law?

The people did not receive answers to these questions. Territorial claims, provocative actions undertaken by Armenia on the one hand, the policy of the center aimed at inciting interethnic relations on the other, as well as the criminal inactivity of the leadership of Azerbaijan from a third party, led to the fact that the people completely lost confidence in both the central and republican authorities ...

Considering the reasons for the bloody January events in Baku, today there is no longer any doubt that it was a criminal action, thought out in advance and carefully worked out by the government of the USSR and the Central Committee of the CPSU headed by Mikhail Gorbachev, aimed at suppressing the freedom and independence of the Azerbaijani people, after the Paris and Washington meeting of the Diasporas with Armenians Raisa Gorbachova.

The tragedy took place against the backdrop of the Karabakh crisis. The Kremlin leadership did not seek to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in a lawful way, the policy of the Center was biased and biased. The situation was further complicated by the fact that the then leadership of Azerbaijan, at a critical time for the republic, showed its utter failure and acted on the instructions and scenario of Moscow.

And a special resolution adopted in March 1988 by the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR on accelerating the socio-economic development of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region not only did not solve the problem, but also laid the socio-economic basis for the rejection of Nagorno-Karabakh from the Azerbaijan SSR.

The leadership of the USSR brutally dealt with the people who dared to speak out in defense of the territorial integrity of their republic and to express disagreement with the unjust national policy.

The Baku massacre was perpetrated by the Kremlin in order to break the will of the Azerbaijani people, "Islamic fundamentalists", during the introduction of television these words from the language of M. Gorbachov I heard on January 19 at 18:00, and at the same time, and to demonstrate the power of the Soviet punitive machine.

The events that took place in Baku in January 1990 were of an anti-people character, the armed forces of the USSR were used not for protection, but against their own people. The secret became clear ... Over time, many new facts surfaced, which indicate that the actions of the State Security Committee and the Main Intelligence Directorate of the USSR were aimed at maximally complicating and destabilizing the situation in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

For example, provocations and sabotage were organized in Baku, leading to pogroms. The beginning of the Sumgait events and the end of 1989 Even before the January events, additional contingents of internal troops and forces of the Soviet Army were sent to the capital of Azerbaijan; in mid-January 1990, up to 66,000 soldiers and officers were additionally deployed to Baku, among whom were reservists called up for a while.

On the eve of the tragedy, under the pretext of disarming the population, weapons were seized even from police officers. On the night of January 19-20, 1990, at the direction of Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, a 35,000-strong army group was introduced in Baku, which was ordered to storm the peacefully sleeping Soviet city.

According to a legal requirement, Mikhail Gorbachev, signing on January 19, 1990, the Decree "On the introduction of a state of emergency in Baku from January 20", was obliged, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Art. 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, inform the population of Baku about the impending input of troops in advance. However, the Kremlin did not do this, and civilians in Baku were killed as a result. It was impossible to impose a state of emergency, to carry out a military operation with the use of firearms in a city with two million inhabitants, explaining all this by the need to suppress the national movement, to ban appeals and demands for national sovereignty - it did not fit into the proclaimed democratization.

But to do the same, motivating it with the need to establish order, protect citizens, and their safety, was perfectly within the Kremlin's tactics. As a result of this military action, 147 civilians were killed in Baku, more than 800 people were injured, 841 people were illegally arrested, and millions of Soviet citizens experienced psychological shock and acquired a clearly realized unwillingness to continue living in the USSR. With the introduction of troops into Baku, a terrible, unprecedented crime began against the civilian population of the city and all of Azerbaijan.

All civil and human rights of millions of people were violated. The capture of Baku was carried out under the command of the Minister of Defense Yazov, the forces of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the KGB of the USSR Bakatin and Kryuchkov, as well as the regular units of the Soviet Army and Navy, using heavy military equipment, helicopters and warships. The troops, shelling civilians without warning, entered the streets of the city, both from the outskirts and from military units stationed within the city. Special atrocities of the military took place in the suburbs, where the population consists exclusively of persons of Azerbaijani nationality and where pogroms, allegedly one of the reasons for the introduction of troops, were in principle impossible. In the course of a large-scale military operation, hundreds of women, children and old people of different nationalities died under the tracks of military equipment and shelling from modern small arms using bullets with an offset center of gravity, prohibited by international agreements.

On this tragic night, the servicemen, forgetting about mercy in relation to the wounded, cut off the electricity in a number of hospitals; volunteers were not allowed to donate blood to hospitals with barrels of gunfire. Even the cars and the ambulance staff were fired upon.

Many seriously wounded were brutally killed. In a number of places, heavy military equipment crushed cars along with people. There were cases of robbery, looting, acts of vandalism among the military personnel.

Wanting to hide the traces of their atrocities, the military authorities hid and burned the corpses of the dead. Hundreds of missing people are evidence of this.

History of the country Through the eyes of eyewitnesses I have never seen unkempt soldiers with long hair in the Soviet army. The chronicles of those events have been preserved.

But nevertheless, it was such a contingent and this contingent used bullets with a displaced center of gravity prohibited by international conventions, people were crushed by tracks of heavy military equipment, and tear gas was used.

Even the ambulance was hit by a tank and the doctors died. It is sometimes said that there were certain currents in the republic against the Soviet regime. But I would like to emphasize that not a single politician was hurt that night. Innocent people suffered - people of different nationalities, women, children, old people.

It is not at all clear on what principle the destruction of people took place. However, it has already been proven that the introduction of armed forces and the declaration of a state of emergency in Baku is a gross violation of Article 119 of the USSR Constitution and Article 71 of the Constitution of the Azerbaijan SSR, as well as the International Covenant "On Civil and Political Rights."

Thus, the sovereign rights of the Republic of Azerbaijan were violated.

According to paragraph 14 of Article 119 of the Constitution of the USSR, a prerequisite for the introduction of a state of emergency is the consideration of this issue by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union republic, which, of course, was not done. The leadership of Azerbaijan did not take any decision on the introduction of a state of emergency and did not give consent to such a decision. And as a result of the fact that television broadcasting was stopped in the republic due to the disabled power unit of the television center, the majority of Akinty learned about the introduction of the state of emergency only in the morning. It is also an indisputable fact that when the state of emergency was declared, some servicemen acted inhumanely, violating basic human rights.

In accordance with the Decree of the International Military Tribunal, the Geneva Conventions for the Protection of War Victims of 1949, the Criminal Code of Azerbaijan, they are classified as war criminals. In fact, the military violated all existing international conventions on human rights, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966, the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict of 1974, 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child The Kremlin leadership motivated the introduction of Soviet troops into Baku by the need to protect the Armenian population.

Mikhail Gorbachev said that the Azeri militants were allegedly the first to open fire on the soldiers of the armed forces. However, independent lawyers' organizations, in particular such a well-known organization as "Shield", when studying the facts in this case, did not reveal the formations of Azerbaijani militants and came to the conclusion that the Soviet army was waging a war with its citizens.

For their part, the Memorial Society and the Helsinki Group found convincing evidence that the imposition of the state of emergency led to an unjustified violation of civil liberties and that Soviet troops used unjustified forceful methods. The soldiers with particular cruelty shot people at point-blank range, carried out deliberate tank raids on passenger cars in which there were people, fired at hospitals, and prevented medical personnel from helping the wounded. The civilian population was fired from Kalashnikov assault rifles with bullets with a displaced center of gravity, which greatly increase the suffering of a person and make his death inevitable.

Press and diplomacy - discussion and support of world leaders the leading Western states then did not react to the tragic events in Baku at that time, taking the position of "double standards" of complete non-interference, thereby supporting the destructive policy of M. Gorbachev.

Azerbaijan, taken separately at that time, was not of geopolitical interest for them. The main strategic goal of the opponents of the USSR in the Cold War was the complete collapse of the Soviet Union, and the outbreak of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and the bloody massacre of the Azerbaijani people were only in their hands.

Strange as it may seem, a complete, objective political and legal assessment of the events of January 20 has not yet been given. The questions are still haunted: Who and for what purpose pitted two neighboring peoples - Armenians and Azerbaijanis?

How could the ethnic cleansing of Azerbaijanis in Armenia be carried out in front of the world community? Why didn't they arrange an international trial over the organizers of the bloody massacre in Baku, and why no one was punished for the crime? The investigation of the tragic January events was carried out "hot on the trail" by the USSR Prosecutor General's Office, which did not reveal the corpus delicti in the actions of the military personnel, as a result of which the case was dropped.

Why is the truth about the Baku tragedy still hidden? Why 69 out of 108 volumes of investigation materials were taken by employees of the former USSR Prosecutor's Office to Moscow and why they have not yet been returned to Azerbaijan and are not available for study, which does not allow today to reveal the degree of guilt of all persons involved in this? A terrible night, subjected to punitive measures by the army armed to the teeth, the civilians of Azerbaijan gave their lives for the sake of the independence of the modern Azerbaijan state.

Unlike the then leaders of the republic, the very next day after the tragedy, on January 21, 1990, the outstanding son of the Azerbaijani people, Heydar Aliyev, risking his life, together with his family members, came to the permanent representation of Azerbaijan in Moscow, where he delivered his famous speech, which called the decision of the top Soviet leadership to send troops to Baku illegal and anti-democratic, and gave the first political assessment of what had happened, demanding that all those involved in the tragedy be punished. This courageous deed was performed by him in the building in which we are now, and the bas-relief installed here will always remind the great son of the Azerbaijani people of his heroic deed.

was after the return of national leader Heydar Aliyev to the leadership of the state that the events of January 20 were first given a political and legal assessment. That time, this bloody January day has been declared the Day of National Mourning.

President Ilham Aliyev, a worthy successor to the great leader Heydar Aliyev, always shows attention and care for the families of martyrs, disabled people, war veterans. The work carried out by the head of state in this direction is highly appreciated by our people, including the families of martyrs, veterans and disabled people.

Resolutely it is the way to absolute victory!!! ... Since the 90s of the last century, Azerbaijan was forced to fight for its territory and independence. The citizens of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijanis, became victims of aggression by the Soviet Army, which acted on the orders of the head of state. The brutality with which Soviet troops dealt with civilians in Baku on the night of January 19-20 was unmatched. People did not understand how the army could shoot the civilians of its own state. And the whole point is that the state called the Soviet Union was in a state of agony. And as the last measure against the detachment of the republics striving for independence, military force was used, which showed particular cruelty towards those who wanted freedom.

Due to such complete indifference on the part of the world community, those guilty of committing a monstrous crime against humanity remained unpunished. This once again confirms the double standards of the world community, large states and international organizations, which, in recognition of their enormous "merits", were noted in the statement of the Nobel Committee on October 15, 1990: "The Norwegian Nobel Committee decided to award the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize to President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Sergeevich Gorbachev for his leading role in the peace process, which today characterizes an important part of the life of the international community.

Significant changes have taken place in relations between East and West in recent years. The confrontation gave way to negotiations ...". So, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded in Oslo on December 10, 1991 through the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation A. Kovalev not with the usual amount of 250 thousand dollars, but one million 20 thousand dollars. In my opinion, their high assessment was that M. Gorbachev destroyed the empire as the most powerful nuclear power in the world.

Not one of the guilty officials answered either before the people or before the justice of Soviet society, either then or now. Ideological contradictions, divergence of interests and positions, ambitions - all this is an integral element of modern society, without which no political process can do. It is important that these contradictions are not resolved by violence. Without realizing this, society cannot be insured against fatal mistakes that affect the interests of the people. Baku "Black January" was the beginning of the end of the USSR. At the same time, for the inhabitants of Azerbaijan, he opened a new historical era of national self-determination and state sovereignty, when the people realized themselves as a nation capable of independently taking responsibility for their own destiny.

That is why in present-day Azerbaijan the Day of National Mourning bears the mark of not a state, but a national tragedy, which allowed a new political entity, the Republic of Azerbaijan, to be born out of oblivion. January 20 is the beginning of the path leading to the restoration of Azerbaijan's independence.

Therefore, the memory of the victims of the tragedy is always honored with deep respect. Two years later, in 1992, the General Prosecutor's Office of Azerbaijan annulled the decision of the General Prosecutor's Office of the USSR and opened a criminal case under Art. 94.4 and 94.6 (premeditated murder under aggravated circumstances), 149 (intentional destruction of property), 168 (abuse of power and official powers), 255 (use and abuse of power) of the Criminal Code in force at that time. The events of January 20, 1990 in Baku showed the terrible face of the Soviet empire, which was in a state of disintegration. "Black January", as those terrible events are commonly called, divided our life into two halves: "before", when we were in the illusion that we were citizens of the most civilized country, and "after" - when we saw the true face of a state called Soviet Union. The Soviet Union ceased to be their state for them.

Communists publicly burned thousands of party cards in squares, schoolchildren - pioneer ties, veterans of the Great Patriotic War, Afghanistan, and other local wars and conflicts in different parts of the world refused blood-deserved military awards. The crime of the communist regime against the Azerbaijani people is qualified by legal law as genocide and state terrorism. The leadership of the Soviet Union violated the basic provisions of the 1966 Covenant on Human Rights, the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the Hague Conferences of 1899 and 1907, the 1949 Geneva Convention and, finally, the 1948 Convention on the Prohibition and Punishment of Genocide, which provide for prohibitions on the use of armed forces against civilians with the use of punitive measures. The people of Azerbaijan will never forget those terrible events and the decisions taken by the then Soviet leadership, which led to numerous victims of innocent citizens. Today, members of their families are surrounded by constant care from the state, and those who lost their health during the events of January 20 are under the direct patronage of Presillham Aliyev, who pays special attention to the issues of their social protection and proper pension provision. 31 years have passed since the events of bloody Black January.

These are the days of independence, a terrible crime was committed, which led to a tragedy. After the bloody January events, the liberation struggle of the Azerbaijani people intensified even more. The Republic of Azerbaijan today is a completely different country. Azerbaijan, a country of predominantly Muslim population, is also home to a number of other ethnic and religious groups, including Christian and Jewish communities.

Even when the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict erupted about 31 years ago, Azerbaijani society continued to maintain peace and harmony among confessional and ethnic groups. Despite the bloody events in Baku, January 20, 1990 became a page of heroism in the history of the struggle for the independence and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. A new reality has emerged in the solidarity of Azerbaijan People, Army, President, International Law. This reality was created by the new Azerbaijan, which expelled the enemy - the aggressor from our occupied 20% of the lands, carried out 4 resolutions of the UN Security Council, which for 27 years these resolutions for many were just a piece of paper - not only for Armenia, but also for others.

Azerbaijan said that international law is on our side, that the resolutions of the UN Security Council require the withdrawal of the occupying forces from our lands. However, this did not work. We ourselves have created a new reality in international legal practice and in our region. The occupation ended. But war does not happen without losses, the people won full independence during the 44-day Patriotic War at the cost of the blood of 2841 servicemen of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces and 94 civilians, more than 400 civilians were wounded by the sworn enemy. Ilham Aliyev said: "I hope that we have created a new format of security and cooperation in the region for the present and future. Life will show what this format will be. In any case, we did everything necessary to create this new format of cooperation, drove the enemy out of our lands, and if today the issues specified in the Statement signed on November 10 find a solution, then a new cooperation framework will be created in our region." We remember every hero! A person dies when they forget about him. Therefore, our victory is a historic Victory by God's blessing. We liberated all areas from the enemy on the battlefield, forcing the enemy, and thus resolved the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Now the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is gone. If someone thinks that this conflict is still ongoing, then he is mistaken. People living in Nagorno-Karabakh today are citizens of Azerbaijan. I want to say again that they will see that their life within the framework of the united Azerbaijan state will be good.

They will get rid of this poverty. " Fraternal and friendly countries: Turkey, Pakistan and Ukraine rendered solidarity and moral support to Azerbaijan. Turkey's position and its solidarity with Azerbaijan should be seen as a stabilizing and balancing factor in the context of regional security. And all the rumors that Turkey is participating as a party to the conflict, which are spread from the Armenian side, are provocative. There is not a single need and evidence of the participation of Turkey and other friendly countries in the conflict. The Azerbaijani army is sufficiently prepared to ensure the protection of its people and its territory.

Only memory, future generations will return to where we fought, and we will never forget those People ... whom Heaven took ... Here it is appropriate to wake up to recall the expert of the Ukrainian Political Science Association Rinat Kovbasyuk: "It seems to me that the world has turned upside down and everything has somehow gone too far. I think, of course, that most likely France still does not recognize any Artsakh, but the fact that they gave a clear signal to grossly violate international law is obvious. Before worrying about the territories belonging to Azerbaijan, I would suggest that the French think about recognizing the independence of Corsica or giving up the ethnic territory of the Basques, if the Spaniards are in no hurry to let the Basques float freely. There are also Bretons, French Guiana and French Polynesia may already be the time to hear the "voice crying in the desert" among the local population and it's time to let go of their former colonies, and not try to rudely violate the officially recognized borders of sovereign Azerbaijan ...!" The President said: "We have not retreated for a single day. Our wounded soldiers, who were in serious condition, said in hospitals, hospitals that we wanted to recover as soon as possible and return to the combat zone.

May Allah soothe the souls of our martyrs, when their parents buried them, they said - long live the Motherland. They said - forward, only forward. May Allah rest the souls of all our martyrs! Our lands, which we dreamed of for almost 30 years, were liberated from occupation at the cost of blood and the lives of our martyrs.

Highly professional development of plans for combat operations, the use of high technologies, effective coordination of actions of various types of troops, absolute air superiority, maneuverability and other tactical and strategic advantages of the Azerbaijani army have significantly reduced our losses in personnel. If you look at the numerous conflicts and wars in the world, you can see that the strong side always puts the last point. The most recent example of this is the 44-day Patriotic War of the Azerbaijani people for Karabakh.

Over the past 17 years, we have accumulated strength, crushed the enemy with a steel fist. The end of the thirty years of occupation, complete independence - territorial integrity, injustice was laid in 44 days. Our strength was seen not only by the enemy. The whole world saw her. Of course, the winner - Azerbaijan will grow stronger every day, every year. Wise President, Victorious Supreme Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev will confidently lead the people from victory to victory