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## The Anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre

Written question No 516 to the Committee of Ministers  
presented by Ms. Pashayeva

Whereas on February 24 it will be exactly 14 years since Armenian guerrillas supported by regular Russian troops of the 366<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment captured the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly and ruthlessly massacred its peaceful Azerbaijani residents based on their ethnicity;

Whereas 339 Khojaly civilians, including 43 babies, 109 women and 16 elderly persons were brutalised, tortured and murdered in the most cruel and inhuman manner;

Whereas 371 residents were taken hostage with their fate remaining mostly unknown and 200 persons are still missing;

Whereas 421 civilians escaped wounded;

Whereas the town of Khojaly was razed to the ground;

Whereas the conspirators and active perpetrators of this heinous crime, including Karo Pertossian, Seyran Ohanian, Valeri Jitchian, Vachagan Ayrian, Movses Akopian, Vladislav Arutunian, Armen Beglarian, Vachik Mirzoyan, Andrey Ishanian, Sergey Beglarian, Armen Danilian, Grigori Kisebekian, Kamo Arutunian, commander of the 366<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Yuri Zarvigarov etc., are well known, as are their current whereabouts;

Whereas they enjoy impunity despite Azerbaijan's initiation of criminal proceedings and applications to Interpol;

Whereas the then-separatist leader and Armenia's current President Robert Kocharian was himself in charge of planning this atrocity and has expressed his pride over criminal actions in Khojaly on numerous occasions;

Considering the Council of Europe's humanitarian agenda and adherence to the supreme principles of human rights promotion, Ganira Pashayeva asks the Council of Ministers:

- whether it would be appropriate to undertake a proper legal and political assessment of the above mentioned crime against humanity perpetrated by one COE member State against another?

- whether the Council of Ministers is willing to influence Armenia to co-operate with the international community, and specifically Interpol, by sharing information about the perpetrators of this heinous crime currently in Armenia, including their location, and by apprehending and then extraditing them?

- why the Committee of Ministers does not make effective use of mechanisms at its disposal to influence the Government of Armenia to abstain in future from actions that prevent the achievement of lasting peace in the region, including its continued non-compliance with PACE Resolution 1416 (2005), with specific reference to the Armenian occupied territories of Azerbaijan, which include the town of Khojaly?

*Signed*<sup>1</sup>:

PASHAYEVA, Ganira, Azerbaijan, EDG

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<sup>1</sup> SOC: Socialist Group  
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party  
ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe  
EDG: European Democratic Group  
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left  
NR: not registered in a group