

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 24

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2012 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO**

**District 20 (Union)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Commemorates 19th anniversary of Khojaly Tragedy.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



AR24 QUIJANO

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1 AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION commemorating the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
2 of the Khojaly Tragedy in which more than 600 people were  
3 killed.

4  
5 WHEREAS, The Nagorno-Karabakh War, lasting from 1988 to 1994,  
6 was a conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the disputed  
7 region of Nagorno-Karabakh; and

8 WHEREAS, As part of that conflict, on February 26, 1992 in Khojaly,  
9 Azerbaijan, over 600 people were killed, over 1,000 disabled, and  
10 over 1,200 civilians were taken hostage by Karabakh Armenian  
11 forces; and

12 WHEREAS, Many civilian bodies found in Khojaly after the fight were  
13 disfigured and mutilated, making this one of the most inhumane  
14 and barbaric battles of the war; and

15 WHEREAS, International organizations such as Human Rights Watch  
16 documented these killings and attributed responsibility for them to  
17 Karabakh Armenian forces; and

18 WHEREAS, To this day the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia  
19 continues, with Armenian forces occupying Azerbaijan territory in  
20 the Nagorno-Karabakh region; and

21 WHEREAS, Resolutions against Armenian aggression towards  
22 Azerbaijan, and the occupation of the Nagorno-Karabakh region by  
23 Armenian forces have been passed by the United Nations General  
24 Assembly and by the Organization of the Islamic Conference; and

25 WHEREAS, At the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the Organization of the Islamic  
26 Conference Parliamentary Union, the Khojaly Tragedy was  
27 officially recognized as an act of genocide; and

28 WHEREAS, February 26, 2011 marks the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
29 Khojaly Tragedy; now, therefore,

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31 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New  
32 Jersey:

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34 1. The General Assembly hereby commemorates the 19<sup>th</sup>  
35 anniversary of the Khojaly Tragedy which occurred on February 26,  
36 1992 and resulted in the needless loss of over 600 innocent lives.

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38 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the  
39 Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk of the  
40 General Assembly, shall be transmitted to the United States  
41 Department of State and the United States Ambassador to  
42 Azerbaijan.

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44 STATEMENT

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46 This resolution commemorates the Khojaly Tragedy which  
47 occurred on February 26, 1992 in Khojaly, Azerbaijan. The tragedy

1 resulted in the death of over 600 people, the disabling of over 1,000  
2 civilians, and over 1,200 residents being taken hostage. Human  
3 Rights Watch has placed responsibility for the civilian deaths with  
4 Karabakh Armenian forces. While the active hostilities of the  
5 Nagorno-Karabakh War between Azerbaijan and Armenia that  
6 caused this tragedy have ended, the issues giving rise to the conflict  
7 remain in dispute and Armenia still occupies the Nagorno-Karabakh  
8 region. The United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic  
9 Conference have both passed resolutions condemning Armenian  
10 aggression in the area and calling on Armenia to respect Azerbaijan  
11 borders. The Organization of the Islamic Conference has even  
12 officially recognized the Khojaly tragedy as an act of genocide.  
13 The General Assembly commemorates the events of February 26,  
14 1992 in recognition that this is a great tragedy for the Republic of  
15 Azerbaijan and Azeri people around the world.