



**UN Human Rights Council  
Fortieth Session**

**General Segment**

**Right of reply in response to the right of reply by Armenia**

**exercised by Mr. Emin Aslanov, First secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

**February 28, 2019**

Thank you Mr. President,

I am compelled to exercise my right of reply in response to the baseless and hostile remarks and accusations made by the delegate of Armenia concerning my country.

Whenever we speak about the massacre and crimes against humanity committed by Armenia in Khojali town of Azerbaijan, Armenian delegation responds with allegations about events happened in Sumgayit town of Azerbaijan 4 years prior to Khojali Genocide.

I would like to ask the Armenian delegate, whether the point they want to make is that Armenia actually committed the Khojaly Genocide in order to take a revenge for the so called Sumgayit events? If yes, then this is so inhuman.

Dear colleagues,

The so called Sumgayit events which took place during the Soviet Union were investigated by the central authorities of the Soviet Union with the involvement of representatives from both sides. And guess what did the investigation reveal? The investigation unveiled that the Sumgayit unrest was a well-prepared provocation masterminded by the chauvinist groups of Soviet Armenia.

Back in 1988, it would seem at least bizarre why Armenian leaders would organize unrest against Armenians in Azerbaijan. However, the following sequence of events made it crystal clear why the Armenian masterminds had provoked the events in Sumgayit. Just to use it as a tool of propaganda to ignite/fire up nationalistic sentiments in Armenian population both in Azerbaijan and in Armenia and brainwash them to fight against Azerbaijan in order take a part of my country's territory.

As regards Khojali Genocide, let me remind Armenian delegation that the Khojali crimes were publicly admitted by the former President of Armenia, Serzh Sarkisyan in his interview to the British journalist. Mr. Sarkisyan's recorded description of Khojali massacre was as following: I quote: "before Khojaly, the Azerbaijanis thought that Armenians were people who could not raise their hands against the civilian population. We were able to break that stereotype" end of quote.

Having said that, I conclude my reply by posing another question to Armenian authorities: Instead of attacking all around, When are you going to open a criminal case for the Khojaly atrocities and interrogate the ousted President Sarkisyan for the crimes he committed and publicly admitted against humanity in Khojaly?

Thank you.