

“25 years after Azerbaijan's Black January: How Freedom was Earned” Is Theme of its Silver Anniversary

In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the “Black January” tragedy in Baku, the Consulate General of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles will hold a memorial event on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at 11766 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1410, Los Angeles, CA 90025. The event will include musical performances. A dinner buffet will be offered following the ceremonies.

The “Black January” Tragedy

On January 20, 1990, 26,000 troops under orders from the Soviet leadership in Moscow invaded Baku, killing hundreds of unarmed civilians and injuring over thousand men, women and children. It set in motion the events, which led to Azerbaijan’s independence a year and a half later. The significance of this day, which went down in history as the “Black January,” for the eventual collapse of the USSR cannot be overestimated. Peaceful demonstrations had been taking place for several weeks in downtown Baku, protesting the Soviet control of Azerbaijan. In fact, Azerbaijan was the first among the former Soviet republics to mount a serious move toward independence, and it was the prospect of a breakup of the Soviet empire that prompted

The Azerbaijan Consulate General to Commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the “Black January” Tragedy

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Mikhail Gorbachev to send both armored troops and KGB officials to Baku. Despite the bloodshed, the Soviet leadership was unable to stop the quest for freedom of the Azerbaijani people. In 1991, Azerbaijan finally restored its independence.

Azerbaijan is now a very-progressive nation and it is called the "Country of the Future." # # #

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