

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 166

BY SENATOR MURRAY

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. Expresses sympathy in support of the families of victims of massacres and atrocities perpetrated against the Armenian people in Azerbaijan.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express sympathy in support of the families of victims of massacres and atrocities  
3 perpetrated against the Armenian people in Azerbaijan.

4 WHEREAS, the Armenian populated area of Nagorno-Karabakh is located between  
5 the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan; and

6 WHEREAS, in 1920 the Soviet Union forcibly established control over the areas of  
7 Armenia and Azerbaijan; and

8 WHEREAS, the Soviet Union created the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast  
9 within Azerbaijan in 1923 and this region became a source of dispute between Armenia and  
10 Azerbaijan; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1988, the Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh peacefully demonstrated  
12 against Azerbaijan for the right of self-determination and individual freedom from repression  
13 and discrimination; and

14 WHEREAS, in February 1988, in the seaside town of Sumgait in Soviet Azerbaijan  
15 a pogrom targeted the Armenian population when mobs composed of largely ethnic  
16 Azerbaijanians formed groups which attacked and killed hundreds of Armenians on the streets,  
17 in their apartments in a situation that was allowed to continue by Soviet and Azerbaijan  
18 officials for three days before government forces imposed a state of martial law and curfew

1 bringing the crisis to an end; and

2 WHEREAS, the crimes committed against Armenians in Sumgait remain unpunished  
3 thereby opening the door for similar atrocities against the Armenian people starting in the  
4 capital Baku and spreading to other areas of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh; and

5 WHEREAS, Azerbaijan seeks to avoid responsibility for the violence and atrocities  
6 by falsifying historical events and by portraying the involvement of Soviet troops to Baku  
7 to restore order on the seventh day of the Armenian atrocities as a crackdown on the alleged  
8 independence movement in Azerbaijan; and

9 WHEREAS, it is well known that there was no large scale movement for  
10 independence in Azerbaijan due to the fact in a March 1991, referendum that more than 94%  
11 of the Azerbaijan constituencies favored preserving the Soviet Union; and

12 WHEREAS, Azerbaijan continues to distort events of other atrocities, including the  
13 events in the village of Khojaly in which Azerbaijan troops fired on their own population  
14 and the deportation of Armenian villages in Nagorno-Karabakh.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
16 does hereby express sympathy in support of the families of victims of massacres and  
17 atrocities perpetrated against the Armenian people in Azerbaijan.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate requests that the President of the  
19 United States and the Congress exert all available influence on the government of Azerbaijan  
20 to cease the falsification of the historical facts and bring those in Azerbaijan who are  
21 responsible for the Armenian massacres in Sumgait, Baku, Kirovabad, Maragha, Nagorno-  
22 Karabakh, and of the citizens of Khojaly.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted  
24 to the President of the United States of America, the secretary of the United States Senate,  
25 the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the Louisiana  
26 delegation to the United States Congress.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Thomas L. Tyler.

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DIGEST

Murray

SR No. 166

Express sympathy in support of the families of victims of massacres and atrocities perpetrated against the Armenian people in Azerbaijan.