



## THE FIRST DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP OF ICYF-ERC

February 12th, 2022

About 20 teams, representing the students from leading universities of Azerbaijan took part in the Debate Championship, which was held on 12-13 February at Baku State University under the topic of “In the revival of Karabakh, local investments should prevail over foreign ones”. Azerbaijan's national stage of “The 1st Debate Championship of ICYF-ERC” was organized by the Eurasian Regional Center of Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF-ERC) in partnership with the “Debate Civil Society” Public Union.

In the opening ceremony of the event, the Acting Director of the ICYF-ERC Mr. Vusal Gurbanov and the Chairperson of the Debate in Civil Society Public Union Ms. Ulviyya Akhundova welcoming the participants emphasized the successful cooperation between the organizations towards youth development in leadership and debate.



It should be noted that the international project aimed at increasing intellectual level and leadership skills among youth in the OIC region will be implemented in the countries at the initial stage, then at the international level, there will be

a championship of debates with the participation of winning teams from the countries. As mentioned, this project was held firstly in Azerbaijan upon the ICYF-ERC's initiative, and based on gained Azerbaijani experience, there will be held championships in other countries in forthcoming months organized by the ICYF-ERC. This year the young participants from Azerbaijan, Central Asian countries, and the Eurasian region as a whole will be involved in this project. In the future, the geographic area of the project will be expanded.

At the closing ceremony of the event, where a video about the





championship was demonstrated, Mr. Vusal Gurbanov, the Acting Director General of the ICYF-ERC, and Ms. Ulviyya Akhundova, the Chairperson of the Debate in Civil Society Public Union welcoming the participants, emphasized on the role of such kind events in the development of leadership capabilities and exchange of creative ideas and proposals among young people. Mr. Nijat Mammadli, advisor to Minister of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Gadir Khalilov, the representative of Youth Foundation, Mr. Vugar Iskandarov, and Mr. Mushfiq Jafarov, the MPs of Milli Majlis as well as Mr. Azer Aliyev, the chairman of the National Assembly of the Youth Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan (NAYORA) made also greeting speeches and desired such kind of activities to be constantly implemented in future.

Teams and students, distinguished by their talent and capability were awarded medals and special prizes. The team representing the Russian-speaking sector gained an opportunity to participate at the International Debate Championship as young representatives of Azerbaijan that will be held in one of the Central Asian countries during this year.

## STATEMENTS OF THE BOARD

### National Day of Mourning in Kazakhstan

The International Board and Staff of the Eurasian Regional Center of the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF-ERC) express their deep condolences to the families and relatives of the people who lost their lives in the tragic events in different parts of the country, and to the brotherly people of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

January 10th, 2022

### Black January Tragedy

Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF (ICYF-ERC) expresses its deepest condolences and sympathy to the people and the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Day of the Nationwide Sorrow. We commiserate deeply with Azerbaijani brothers and sisters over this brutal attack and massacre which they suffered 32 years ago.

January 20th, 2022

### Azerbaijan Youth Day

On the occasion of 2 February "Azerbaijan National Youth Day", the Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF (ICYF-ERC) wholeheartedly congratulates Azerbaijani youth and those working for the youth, at both governmental and non-governmental levels.



February 2nd, 2022

### Kashmir Solidarity Day

On the occasion of 5 February – Kashmir Solidarity Day, the Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF (ICYF-ERC) reaffirms its obvious support to the oppressed people of Kashmir and expresses its full solidarity with Kashmiri Youth who are subjected to several forms of human rights violation.

February 5th, 2022

### 30th Anniversary of the Khojaly Genocide

On the 30th Anniversary of this atrocious and brutal crime perpetrated against humanity, ICYF-ERC commiserates strongly with the brotherly people of Azerbaijan over this pain and commits itself to the goal and objectives of Justice for Khojaly.

February 26th, 2022

### Novruz Holiday

The International Board and Staff of ICYF-ERC cordially congratulate you all on the occasion of the Novruz Holiday and wish you and your beloved ones the best of health, happiness, and prosperity.

March 20th, 2021

### Pakistan Resolution Day

The International Board and Staff of ICYF-ERC express their cordial congratulations to the Government and People of the brotherly Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the occasion of Pakistan Day – the 82nd anniversary of the Lahore Resolution.



March 23rd, 2022

## TOP NEWS OF THE EDITION

We are thrilled to announce that the Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF (ICYF-ERC) became a partner of one of the biggest Startup projects of the region – Take Off Baku Startup Summit!



Take Off Baku Startup Summit will be held on 26-28 May this year in the frame of the international aerospace and technology festival TEKNOFEST Azerbaijan. The summit program includes meetings with investors, companies, foreign mentors, influential speakers, startups' pitching, and a large prize fund!



# JUSTICE FOR KHOJALY: #RECOGNIZETORECONCILE

## Khojaly: Recognize to Reconcile



Annually the ICYF-ERC organizes a series of events to support the international campaign for the Khojaly Genocide in the framework of the "Justice for Khojaly" international awareness campaign. This year, ICYF-ERC supported the "Recognize to Reconcile" initiative by Amra Begic, a Srebrenica survivor, which she announced during the international event "Peace and Justice" in Vienna. During the event, she noted that the recognition of the Khojaly genocide by the current Armenian government - which had no direct participation in the tragedy, could be one of the greatest contributions to peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan. To make the initiative's outreach more global and raise awareness among more people, ICYF-ERC has organized a series of events in Indonesia and Pakistan to support the "Khojaly: Recognize To Reconcile" initiative on the occasion of 30th Anniversary of the Khojaly Genocide.

### THE SIMULATION OF IPHRC OF OIC ON THE TOPIC OF "RECOGNIZE TO RECONCILE" HELD IN ADA UNIVERSITY

February 24th, 2022

On February 24, 2022, the Eurasian Regional Center of Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF-ERC) as an organizer in partnership with ADA University and ADAMUN Club, successfully organized the Simulation of Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) of the OIC with the topic of

"Recognize to Reconcile", dedicated to the 30th Anniversary of the Khojaly Genocide, at ADA University.

The keynote speakers of the event were Mr. Fariz Ismayilzade (Executive Vice-Rector of ADA University), Mr. Aydin Safikhanly (Head of Ombudsman Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Independent member of IPHRC), Mr. Farahim Huseynzade (Lead Legal Counsel of Central Bank of the Republic of Azerbaijan), Mr. Vusal Gurbanov (Acting Direc-

tor General of ICYF-ERC) and Ms. Leyla Mammadzade (Secretary-General of ADAMUN Club) welcoming participants at the opening ceremony, informed them about the Khojaly tragedy in terms of the principles of international law, the importance of the recognition of this tragedy, as well as told about the international awareness campaign "Justice for Khojaly".

The event consisted of three specific sessions, accompanied by the relevant topics: 1) Determining the major obstacles on the

path of a broader international recognition of the Khojaly genocide; 2) Strengthening the recognition of the Khojaly genocide on the international level; 3) Increasing the efforts by the OIC member states for recognition of Khojaly genocide as a crime against humanity on national and international levels.

The young delegates from 11 OIC member states (Afghanistan, Gambia, Ghana, Maldives, Nigeria, Palestine, etc.) participated in this event. Also, students simulated the media activity of Al Jazeera, BBC, and Arab News news agencies, and prepared special reports of the event.



At the end of the event, international students called the Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan to “Recognize Khojaly genocide for reconciliation” via social media networks. Moreover, the best delegate, the best debater, the best journalist, and the honorable mentions were selected and awarded with special certificates.

The main purpose of the event was to inform the world community about the truth of the Khojaly tragedy through the participation of international youth, as well as to examine this tragedy through the prism of international humanitarian law.

## PROTEST RECORDED WITH THE SLOGAN “RECOGNIZE TO RECONCILE” IN JAKARTA, INDONESIA

February 25th, 2022

Youth activists in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, held a series of events to mark the 30th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

Within the framework of the events, the group of Indonesian protesters held a rally under the slogan “Recognize to Reconcile” in front of the Armenian embassy in Jakarta. ICYF-ERC appreciates the work of OIC Youth Indonesia and the National Youth Council of Indonesia (NYC Indonesia) in organizing the rally.

During the rally, the Indonesian youth supported the initiative launched by Amra Begic, Deputy Director of Srebrenica Museum and one of the victims of the Srebrenica tragedy, to call on the Armenia government to recognize the Khojaly genocide at the “Peace and Justice” international conference held in Vienna a few days ago. Her initiative was turned into an international campaign by the Eurasian Regional Center of Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF-ERC).



Despite the restrictions on the pandemic, slogans were chanted to the Armenian leadership to take the responsibility for the tragedy and apologize to the Azerbaijani people during the two-hour “Justice for Khojaly” rally.

## PAKISTAN SUPPORTS “KHOJALY: RECOGNIZE TO RECONCILE” INITIATIVE

February 25th, 2022

The Eurasian Regional Center of Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF-ERC) in partnership with the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Pakistan and the Global Strategic Institute for Sustainable Development has organized a series of events dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy in Islamabad, Pakistan.



An exhibition of photos and drawings painted on the wall as art graffiti and reflecting the Khojaly tragedy was held in one of the central squares of Islamabad.

A large event dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy was held in the Government Polytechnic Institute for Women. The seminar started with the Quran recitation and national anthems of Azerbaijan and Pakistan. The speakers of the event were Dr. Shakeel Ahmed, Director of the Research Development and Planning Committee of Pakistan, Ms. Sha-



bana Arif, Director of the Government Polytechnic Institute for Women, Mr. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and Mr. Qaiser Nawab, Executive Director of the Global Strategic Institute for Sustainable Development.

In speeches, the Khojaly tragedy was assessed as a crime against humanity and the importance of the Pakistani people to support the initiative, launched by Amra Begic, Deputy Director of Srebrenica Genocide Memorial, to call on the Armenia government to recognize the Khojaly genocide, was emphasized. Moreover, the creation of conditions for sustainable peace in the region as a result of Azerbaijan's victory in the 44-day war was discussed during the seminar. As part of the event, in memory of the victims of the Khojaly tragedy, a tree-planting campaign was held by the young Pakistani activists in one of the parks.

## ANOTHER EVENT RELATED TO KHOJALY HELD AT CENTRAL MOSQUE OF INDONESIA

February 25th, 2022

Another commemorative event dedicated to the Khojaly tragedy has been held at the Buya Hamka Hall of the Al-Azhar Mosque organized by the Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF (ICYF-ERC), Indonesian National Youth Council, and OIC Youth Indonesia with the support of the embassy of Azerbaijan in Jakarta, Indonesia. First, prayers were offered for the souls of the martyrs of Karabakh, and balloons were released in their memory.

Speaking at the opening ceremo-

ny, Dr. Ade Jamal, Vice-Rector of the Al-Azhar University of Indonesia, Tantan Taufiq Lubis, Vice President of the ICYF and Chairman of the Indonesian National Youth Council, highlighted the mass extermination that Armenian armed forces committed in Khojaly in February 1992, Indonesia's support for Azerbaijan's just cause for the liberation of the occupied territories, and noted the importance of raising global awareness about Khojaly.

Addressing the event, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Indonesia Jalal Mirzayev, Chairman of the Inter-parliamentary Commission of the House of Representatives of Indonesia Fadli Zon, Chairman of the 1st Commission of the House Helmi Fasal Zaini, Professor of the Al-Azhar University of Indonesia Husnan Bey Fanani, Chairman of the International Relations and Cooperation Committee of the People's Consultative Assembly of Indonesia Bunyan Saptomo spoke about the importance of the "Justice for Khojaly!" campaign and the "Khojaly: Recognize to Reconcile" initiative launched by Amra Begic, Deputy Director of the Srebrenica Memorial Museum in Vienna, that calls on the Armenian leadership to recognize the Khojaly tragedy.



Following the event, the chairman of the OIC Youth Indonesia Astrid Nadya Rizqita made a presentation on the "Justice for Khojaly" campaign and invited everyone to join the online campaign.

## ICYF-ERC'S ONLINE CAMPAIGN TO CALL ON THE ARMENIAN GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE THE KHOJALY GENOCIDE

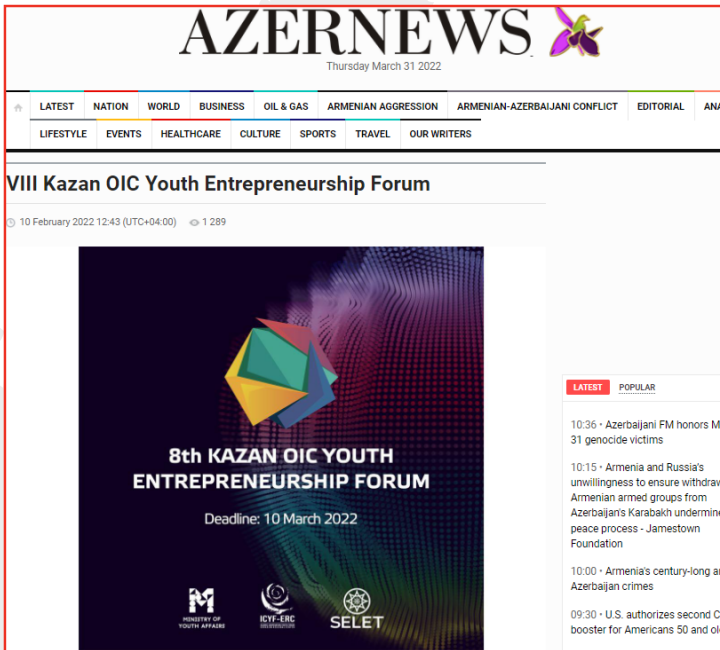
February 25th, 2022

With the initiative of the ICYF-ERC, the online campaign within the framework of "Justice for Khojaly" International Awareness Campaign took place on various social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) and received support of thousands of social media users from different OIC countries such as Pakistan, Indonesia, and Turkey.



The video describes the steps needed to support the #RecognizeToReconcile social media campaign. The campaign was organized in two steps as below. First step is to find social media accounts of the Prime Minister of Armenia @NikolPashinyan and the Ombudsman of Armenia Arman Tatoyan (@atatoyan). Second step is to comment with two hashtags #Khojaly #recognizetoreconcile on their latest Facebook/Twitter posts or tag them on Twitter with the #Khojaly #recognizetoreconcile.

# ICYF-ERC IN MEDIA



On 19-21 May 2022, the 8th Kazan OIC Youth Entrepreneurship Forum is going to be co-organized by the Eurasian Regional Center of Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF-ERC), Ministry of Youth Affairs of the Republic of Tatarstan, and Tatarstan Republic Youth Social Fund "Selet", that aims to support new startup ideas in OIC region, to stimulate the business ideas of the youth as well as to contribute to the cooperation between Russia and OIC countries in the areas such as economics, trade, and innovation.



Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF (ICYF-ERC) continues to support the international initiative "Khojaly: RecognizeToReconcile", which calls on the Prime Minister of Armenia to recognize the Khojaly tragedy and invites everyone to join the initiative. To support the initiative it is required: the first - find the social media accounts of the Armenian Prime Minister @NikolPashinyan and the Ombudsman @atatoyan, the second - write #Khojaly #RecognizeToReconcile under the comment section or post those hashtags on your social media accounts and tag the aforementioned people (Prime Minister and Ombudsman).



# THE ACTIVITIES OF ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ICYF-ERC

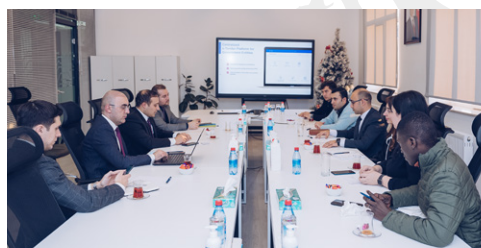
## ICYF-ERC VISITED THE E- GOV DEVELOPMENT CENTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

January 14th, 2022

On 14 January 2022, the representatives of ICYF-ERC visited the E-GOV Development Center of the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Four students from OIC member states (Jordan, Algeria, Gambia, and Tajikistan) pursuing their Bachelor's and Doctoral degrees in information technologies (IT) in Azerbaijan, participated in the meeting. The purpose of the visit was to assist the youth in their studies. During the meeting, Mr. Fariz Jafarov, the Director of E-GOV Development Center informed the students about the technological structure, operations, and systems applied in public services in Azerbaijan.

Within the framework of the visit, students were taken for an office trip to both E-GOV Development Center and Innoland Incubation & Acceleration Center to learn about how the departments integrate. The youth also shared how the system works in their respective countries and compared the development of information systems to that of Azerbaijan.



## ICYF-ERC REPRESENTATIVES VISITED ADA UNIVERSITY

January 24th, 2022

On January 24, 2022, the ICYF-ERC representatives met with ADA University Executive Vice Rector Mr. Fariz Ismailzade and Student services Manager Ms. Gunel Asgarova. During the meeting, it was highlighted that ADA University's international students from OIC member states take an active part in the activities of the Center. The parties also discussed existing opportunities, prospects for cooperation towards the youth, and the development of diplomacy skills and educational opportunity programs.

## ICYF-ERC AND DEBATE IN CIVIL SOCIETY PUBLIC UNION ENTER INTO COOPERATION

January 25th, 2022

ICYF-ERC and Debate in Civil Society Public Union signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation to promote and support youth leadership and debate as well as youth capacity building both, on national and international levels. During the signing ceremony, Mr. Vusal Gurbanov, ICYF-ERC's Acting Director General, and Ms. Ulviyya Akhundova, Chairperson of Debate in Civil Society Public Union reiterated their commitments to establish the necessary links to achieve

productive cooperation for the benefit of youth in Azerbaijan and the Eurasian region at large.

Under the MoU, the parties agreed to cooperate and seek new opportunities through joint activities to achieve maximum development of the art of debate, leadership, and public speaking.

## ICYF-ERC ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL MET WITH HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR OF JORDAN TO AZERBAIJAN

January 28th, 2022

On 28 January 2022, Acting Director General of ICYF-ERC, Mr. Vusal Gurbanov met with H.E. Mr. Sami Asem Abdullah Gosheh, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Mr. Vusal Gurbanov briefed H.E. Ambassador Sami Asem Abdullah Gosheh on the activities of ICYF, in particular its Eurasian Regional Center (ICYF-ERC) aimed at enhancing friendship and solidarity among the youth of the OIC Member States.

During the meeting held in the Embassy of Jordan in Baku, the parties agreed to enhance the joint work and cooperation to enlarge the engagement of the youth of Jordan in the activities of the Eurasian Regional Center and to support the promotion and development of regional cooperation.

# THE ACTIVITIES OF ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ICYF-ERC

## ICYF-ERC DISCUSSED JOINT PROJECTS WITH THE YOUTH AFFAIRS AGENCY OF UZBEKISTAN

March 1st, 2022

On 1 March 2022, the Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF (ICYF-ERC) had an online meeting with the Youth Affairs Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The Acting Director General of ICYF-ERC Mr. Vusal Gurbanov greeted the agency's representatives and thanked the head of the international relations development department of the youth Affairs Agency of Uzbekistan Mr. Islom Okhunov, for collaboration in the "Central Asian Youth Entrepreneurship Training Program" held in November-December 2021. Both parties also exchanged ideas about the joint projects which will serve the betterment of youth, both local and international.

## ICYF-ERC ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL PAID A COURTESY VISIT TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE AMBASSADOR OF UZBEKISTAN TO AZERBAIJAN

March 2nd, 2022



On March 2, 2022, the Acting Director General of ICYF-ERC, Mr. Vusal Gurbanov paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Mr. Bakhrom Ashrafkhanov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

During the meeting held in the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Baku, both parties exchanged views on possible cooperation of the Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF (ICYF-ERC) with the Youth Affairs Agency of Uzbekistan on projects, aiming to promote regional cooperation, to be implemented in the Republic of Uzbekistan from 2022 to 2023.

## ICYF-ERC AND SABAH.LAB ACCELERATION CENTER ENTER INTO COOPERATION

March 11th, 2022

The Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF (ICYF-ERC) and SABAH.lab Acceleration Center signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation on joint projects serving the best interest of youth and promoting the culture of entrepreneurship and innovation both, on national and international levels.

During the signing ceremony, Mr. Vusal Gurbanov, the Acting Director General of ICYF-ERC, and Mr. Rahim Bayramli, the Chief Executive Officer of SABAH.lab reiterated their

commitments to establish the necessary links to achieve productive cooperation for the benefit of youth in Azerbaijan and the Eurasian region at large.

The first series of activities envisaged by the MoU will start during the 8th Kazan OIC Youth Entrepreneurship Forum in March-May 2022.

## ICYF-ERC AND "SELET" YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF TATARSTAN SIGN ANOTHER COOPERATION AGREEMENT

March 16th, 2022

The protocol of cooperation regulating the next three-year cooperation program was signed between the Eurasian Regional Center of Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF-ERC) and the leading youth organization of Tatarstan "Selet", in Kazan, Tatarstan (RF), on 16 March 2022.



The Ministry of Youth Affairs of the Republic of Tatarstan supported the signing of the protocol to hold international events like the Kazan OIC Youth Entrepreneurship Forum, Debate Championship, and other projects in Tatarstan in the coming years.



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**FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT  
FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION  
FOR MUSLIM SOLIDARITY**



**ICYF-ERC**  
ISLAMIC COOPERATION YOUTH FORUM  
EURASIAN REGIONAL CENTER