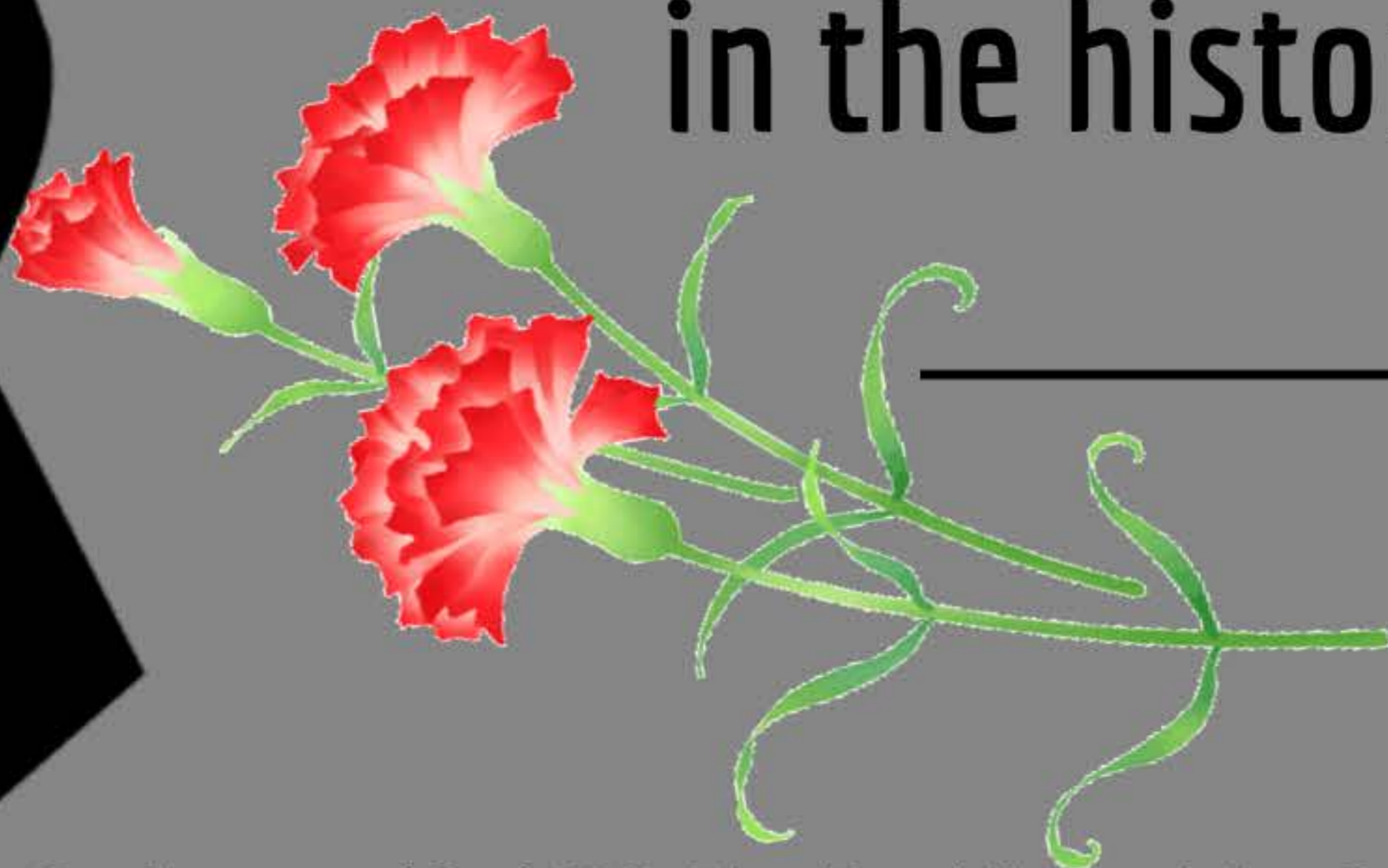




The tragedy of 20 January was engraved in the history of Azerbaijan as "Black January"



20.01.1990
#28thanniversary



On January 19, 1990, The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, without the consent of the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijani SSR, imposed a "curfew in the city of Baku" from 20 January, 00:00 a.m. Troops entered Baku without informing the local population of the curfew and its rules;



On January 20, 1990 Soviet troops under the codename "Udar"/"Strike" operation attacked Baku from all directions, including the sea to put down independence and freedom movement of Azerbaijani People;



There had been earlier attacks in other Soviet Republics but never on the scale and brutality that took place in Azerbaijan;



Soldiers indiscriminately fired on women, elderly and infants; even drivers of the ambulance cars and doctors were subjected to brutal killing. Tanks and armored transporters were crushing civilian and medical vehicles with people inside;



The heavy-handed crackdown resulted in 147 civilian deaths and the injuring of around 800 people;



Before being dispatched to Baku officers and soldiers were instructed that "the Islamic radicals and mojaheds" took the power in the city, and the Soviet soldiers must protect the allegedly violated rights of Armenians;



In reality the true face of the Soviet assault was drastically different. As it was later stated by D.Yazov, then the Minister of Defense of the USSR, the use of force in Baku was intended to prevent the takeover of the power in Azerbaijan by non-Communist opposition and ensure that the Communist government remained in power;



This violent suppression brought a 70-year Soviet rule in Azerbaijan to an end and led to the restoration of its national independence.



The Nobel Peace Prize 1990 was awarded to Mikhail Gorbachev "for his leading role in the peace process...."!!!



Human Rights Watch report on "Black January in Azerbaijan":



Indeed, the violence used by the Soviet Army on the night of January 19-20 was so out of proportion to the resistance offered by Azerbaijanis as to constitute an exercise in collective punishment".