

By: Bohac

H.R. No. 2309

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, January 20, 2015, marked the 25th anniversary of
2 Black January, the event that signaled the beginning of the end of
3 Soviet rule in Azerbaijan; and

4 WHEREAS, On that day in 1990, 26,000 troops from the U.S.S.R.
5 invaded Azerbaijan in response to a growing independence movement
6 in the country, and the soldiers stormed the capital city of Baku in
7 tanks and armored vehicles; despite the overwhelming show of force,
8 Azerbaijanis kept up a courageous resistance to the invasion,
9 continuing their fight into February; and

10 WHEREAS, According to Azerbaijani records, at least 170
11 Azeris were killed in the conflict, more than 320 went missing, over
12 700 were wounded, and some 800 people were arrested; although the
13 Baku incursion caused terrible suffering and loss, it helped bring
14 about change by strengthening support for independence among
15 Azerbaijanis; and

16 WHEREAS, That dream became a reality on October 18, 1991,
17 when the parliament of Azerbaijan voted to restore the country's
18 independence, and later that year, the Soviet Union itself was
19 dissolved; and

20 WHEREAS, A quarter-century after Black January, the
21 determined response of Azerbaijanis to Soviet oppression remains an
22 inspiring example of the quest for freedom; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
24 Legislature hereby commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Black

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1 January events in Azerbaijan.