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## **Amnesty International calls on Azerbaijan to bring perpetrators of attacks on journalists to justice**

Ahead of the eve of the third anniversary of the death of a prominent Azerbaijani journalist Elmar Hüseynov, Amnesty International is reiterating its call to the Azerbaijani authorities to fulfil their international and domestic obligations to guarantee the right to freedom of expression. On 2 March 2005, Elmar Hüseynov, editor-in-chief of the outspoken weekly newspaper Monitor, was shot and killed outside his home in Baku. His colleagues and international press freedom organizations ascribed his murder to the political content of his newspaper.

Amnesty International has documented cases of journalists striving to expose the misuse of government power who are increasingly living under the threat of politically motivated arrests, physical assault and even death.

The organization has noted that predominantly journalists associated with the opposition are the victims of physical assault. As a rule, investigations into these physical assaults do not lead to convictions, thus contributing to a climate of impunity for such attacks.

In its latest document, [\*Azerbaijan: Mixed messages on freedom of expression\*](#), Amnesty International calls on the Azerbaijani authorities to ensure a climate in which critical and alternative viewpoints can be expressed without fear of repression.

### **See also:**

Azerbaijan: Five journalists released (AI Index: EUR55/001/2008) 3 January 2008

Azerbaijan: Prisoner of conscience sentenced to a further eight and a half years' imprisonment (AI Index: EUR 55/016/2007) 1 November 2007

Azerbaijan: Immediate release for prisoners of conscience (AI Index: EUR 55/015/2007) 11 October 2007

Politically sensitive reporting met with physical reprisals in Azerbaijani exclave (AI Index: EUR 55/014/2007) 3 October 2007

Azerbaijan: Critical voices again silenced by libel laws (AI Index: EUR 55/008/2007) 27 April 2007

### **Background material**

Europe and Central Asia: Summary of Amnesty International's Concerns in the Region: January – June 2007 (AI Index: EUR 01/001/2007) June 2007

Azerbaijan: The contracting space for freedom of expression (AI Index: EUR 55/003/2007) 24 January 2007