

URGENT ACTION

POLITICAL ACTIVIST ARRESTED, RISKS TORTURE

Azerbaijani political activist Murad Adilov was arrested on 11 August on what appears to be a trumped-up charge of drug possession. He is held incommunicado, putting him at risk of torture.

Murad Adilov was arrested on 11 August, after police claimed to have found drugs at his house. A court in the capital, Baku, assigned him to three months of pre-trial detention on drug-related charges, in a trial where the lawyer of his choice was not present. Murad Adilov managed to send a complaint to his lawyer that he had been beaten in custody, and he is at risk of further torture, but the lawyer has not yet been allowed to contact or visit him.

Murad Adilov's brother, Natiq Adilov, said Murad Adilov had never used drugs and had been arrested in connection with his brother's opposition journalism. Natiq Adilov received a letter from the Prosecutor's Office on 4 December 2013, which blamed him for disseminating "in media and social networks thoughts and images that do not reflect the dynamic development of the country, the improvement of living standards, the true essence of economic reforms ... and that are contrary to morality and ethics." The authorities threatened in the letter that if he continued his activities, serious measures would be taken.

Natiq Adilov is a well-known critic of the government in Azerbaijan. He is a spokesperson of the opposition Popular Front Party, a columnist for independent newspaper *Azadliq* and a co-host of the show Azerbaijan Hour, broadcast by a satellite TV station to circumvent government censorship. His brother, Murad Adilov is also involved in political activism as an active member of the Popular Front Party.

Please write immediately in Azeri, Russian, English or your own language:

- Urging the Azerbaijani authorities to allow Murad Adilov immediate access to a lawyer of his choice;
- Calling for an immediate investigation into the allegations of beatings and of fabrication of charges against Murad Adilov;
- Urging an immediate review of the lawfulness of his detention in a court hearing consistent with international fair trial standards, assisted by the lawyer of his choice;

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 1 OCTOBER 2014 TO:

President

Ilham Aliyev
Office of the President of Azerbaijan
19 Istiqlaliyyat Street
Baku AZ1066, Azerbaijan
Fax: +994 12 492 0625
Email: office@pa.gov.az

Salutation: Dear President Aliyev

Prosecutor General

Zakir Qaralov
7 Rafibeyli Street
Baku AZ1001, Azerbaijan
Fax: +994 12 492 0335
Email: info@prosecutor.gov.az;
z.qaralov@prosecutor.gov.az

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

Kurdakhany Detention Facility authorities

Kurdakhany Detention Facility
Sabuncu Rayon
Azerbaijan

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International has longstanding concerns about the Azerbaijani authorities' failure to respect their international obligations to protect the rights to freedoms of expression, association and assembly. Dissenting voices in the country frequently face trumped-up criminal charges, physical assault, harassment, blackmail and other reprisals from the authorities and groups associated with them. Law-enforcement officials regularly use torture and other ill-treatment against detained civil society activists, with impunity.

The Azerbaijani authorities often target relatives of political and social activists to put pressure on the activists.

Amnesty International has documented dozens of cases like that of Murad Adilov, and has recognized 23 people as prisoners of conscience in Azerbaijan, jailed solely for their peaceful attempts to exercise their right to freedom of expression. For more information, see *Behind bars: Silencing dissent in Azerbaijan* (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR55/004/2014/en>); *Azerbaijan: Another prominent human rights defender thrown behind the bars* (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR55/010/2014/en>); UA 182/13 and updates (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR55/012/2014/en>); UA 200/14 (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR55/011/2014/en>); and UA 186/14 and updates (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR55/013/2014/en>).

Those deprived of their liberty or facing a possible criminal charge have the right to the assistance of a lawyer of their choice to protect their rights and to help in their defence. Detainees should have access to the lawyer from the outset of their detention, including during questioning. Individuals must be given adequate time and facilities to communicate with their lawyer, in confidence.

Everyone arrested or detained in connection with a criminal charge must be brought promptly before a judge, so that their rights can be protected. The judge must rule on the lawfulness of the arrest or detention, and on whether the detainee should be released or detained pending trial. There is a presumption of release pending trial. The state bears the burden of proving that the initial arrest or detention was lawful and that continuing detention, if requested, is necessary and proportionate.

Name: Murad Adilov

Gender m/f: m

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