

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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Amnesty International urges Azerbaijan to release all persons held for exercising their rights and to put an end to torture and other ill-treatment

Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Azerbaijan

Politically motivated prosecution and imprisonment of government critics and other dissenting voices, on politically motivated charges, is one of Amnesty International's longstanding human rights concerns in Azerbaijan. Currently, over 100 victims of politically motivated prosecution languish in Azerbaijani jails. Amnesty International therefore deeply regrets Azerbaijan's rejection of recommendations to end all politically motivated legal proceedings and release all persons held for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.¹

Amnesty International and other human rights groups have documented numerous cases in Azerbaijan of prosecution and imprisonment of government critics on trumped-up charges, in proceedings that manifestly breach international law and fair trial standards. In this regard, the organization welcomes Azerbaijan's acceptance of recommendations to ensure the independence, impartiality and transparency of the judiciary and to respect the rights of lawyers.²

Many inmates, and especially victims of politically motivated prosecution, routinely allege being subjected to torture and other forms of ill-treatment while in detention. Amnesty International therefore welcomes Azerbaijan's acceptance of a recommendation to improve conditions in prisons and detention centers and ensure access to medical care.³ However, this does not go far enough and the organization profoundly regrets that Azerbaijan has rejected more specific recommendations to prevent torture and other ill-treatment in detention, and to ensure that all allegations of torture are investigated effectively, independently and impartially and the perpetrators brought to justice.⁴

Background

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Azerbaijan on 20 September 2018 during its 39th session. Prior to the adoption of the report of the review Amnesty International delivered this oral statement.

Public Document

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