

URGENT ACTION

JOURNALIST 'ATTACKS' ATTACKER

Independent Azerbaijani journalist and human rights defender, Ilgar Nasibov, who was brutally attacked on 21 August, is himself accused of assault.

Azerbaijani journalist and human rights defender **Ilgar Nasibov** has been accused of assaulting Farid Askerov – one of the persons accused of attacking him on 21 August in the office of the Democracy and NGO Development Resource Centre in the Nakhichevan exclave of Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijani authorities filed official charge against Ilgar Nasibov on 20 September, when he was summoned to the Nakhichevan City Police Department. The charge falls under Article 127.1 of the Criminal Code of Azerbaijan (deliberate infliction of damage to health).

Farid Askerov had been detained by the Azerbaijani authorities in connection with the attack on Ilgar Nasibov on 21 August. Although initially the authorities seemed reluctant to initiate criminal proceedings, Farid Askerov was eventually charged under Article 127.1. Following Farid Askerov's statement declaring that Ilgar Nasibov "stepped on his foot and injured his little toe" the Nakhichevan police charged Ilgar Nasibov for the same count.

Ilgar Nasibov denies the charge and sees it as an attempt by the Azerbaijani authorities to stop him from pursuing effective investigation of the brutal attack he suffered. Ilgar Nasibov fears he might be arrested anytime.

Amnesty International has previously documented cases where government critics have faced criminal charges themselves after reporting being attacked to the authorities and believes the charge against Ilgar Nasibov is trumped up.

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

- Calling on the authorities to drop the trumped-up criminal charge against Ilgar Nasibov;
- Calling on the authorities to immediately, impartially and effectively investigate the attack on Ilgar Nasibov and bring those responsible to justice;
- Insisting on full respect for, and protection of, the right to freedom of expression in Azerbaijan.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 4 NOVEMBER 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

Minister of Internal Affairs of

Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic
Ahmadov Ahmad Huseyn oglu
Ministry of Internal Affairs of
Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic
Nizami Gancavi 32
Index AZ 7000, Azerbaijan
Fax: +994 36 545 2896

Salutation: Dear Minister

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. This is the first update of UA 221/14. Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR55/015/2014/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ilgar Nasibov and his wife, Malahat Nasibova, have been outspoken journalists in Nakhichevan and have worked for the Democracy and NGO Development Resource Centre supporting victims of human rights violations. On 21 August Ilgar Nasibov was found unconscious in the ransacked office of the Democracy and NGO Development Resource Centre with severe head trauma and broken bones in his face. Ilgar Nasibov's family link the attack to his journalism and human rights activism.

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.

Amnesty International has recognized 23 people as prisoners of conscience in Azerbaijan, jailed solely for peacefully exercising 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>).

Name: Ilgar Nasibov

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 221/14 Index: EUR 55/017/2014 Issue Date: 23 September 2014

