

URGENT ACTION

JAILED DEFENDER IN NEED OF URGENT MEDICAL CARE
Azerbaijani prisoner of conscience and human rights lawyer Intigam Aliyev's health has deteriorated further due to lack of adequate medical care in prison. On 24 February the Supreme Court of Azerbaijan will consider his appeal.

Intigam Aliyev is a human rights lawyer and the head of the NGO Legal Education Society. He is one of the few human rights defenders in Azerbaijan who have provided legal assistance and representation to victims of politically motivated persecution. Intigam Aliyev is currently serving seven and a half years in Prison Nr. 6, located in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. He was sentenced by the Baku Grave Crimes Court on 22 April 2015 on trumped-up charges of tax avoidance, illegal entrepreneurship and abuse of power. On 19 October 2015 the Baku Appeal Court dismissed Intigam Aliyev's appeal and upheld the sentence.

Intigam Aliyev's son told Amnesty International on 12 February that his 53-years-old father's health is worsening daily as he is not receiving adequate medical care in Prison Nr. 6. Intigam Aliyev is suffering from poor blood circulation, as well as experiencing severe nerve pain as a result of spine-related problems. Detention cells in Prison Nr. 6 do not have any heating, despite severe winters in Baku with temperatures regularly dropping below freezing.

Intigam Aliyev is appealing his sentence before the Supreme Court of Azerbaijan. According to his lawyer, on 26 January Intigam Aliyev was unable to attend the appeal hearing at the Supreme Court due to feeling unwell. The next hearing on Intigam Aliyev's case will take place on 24 February. The Supreme Court can revoke the decisions of the lower courts and effectively quash Intigam Aliyev's conviction or return the case for a re-trial.

According to Intigam Aliyev's son, his father has been facing pressure from the authorities to sign a letter of confession, which also asks the President of Azerbaijan for pardon. Intigam Aliyev has been refusing to admit his guilt, as is required in a pardon request.

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

- Demanding that Intigam Aliyev is released immediately and unconditionally;
- Pending his release, calling on them to urgently provide Intigam Aliyev with any medical attention he may require, including medication and hospitalization;
- Insisting on full respect for, and protection of, the right to freedom of expression in Azerbaijan.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 29 MARCH 2016 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

Prosecutor General Zakir Garalov

7 Rafibeyli Street

Baku AZ1001, Azerbaijan

Email: info@prosecutor.gov.az

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

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 second update of UA 200/14. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/EUR55/022/2014/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Intigam Aliyev was part of a group of independent experts and human rights defenders who compiled a list of individuals detained or convicted on politically motivated charges in Azerbaijan and worked with international organizations to demand their release. He also helped several victims of politically motivated persecution to submit their cases to the European Court of Human Rights.

On 11 February 2016, the European Court of Human Rights delivered a judgment on one of the cases submitted by Intigam Aliyev, *Huseynli and Others v. Azerbaijan* (67360/11 67964/11 69379/11). The Court found that the government violated the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly, a fair trial and liberty and security of three Azerbaijani activists when they were illegally detained in 2010 and 2011 and prevented from participating in opposition demonstrations.

Amnesty International has longstanding concerns about the Azerbaijani authorities' failure to respect their international obligations to protect the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful 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 18 people prisoners of conscience in Azerbaijan, jailed solely for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression. For more information, see *Critical human rights situation in Azerbaijan further worsening ahead of 2015 election* (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur55/2787/2015/en/>), *Azerbaijan: the Repression Games: The voices you won't hear at the first European Games* (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur55/1732/2015/en/>), *Azerbaijan: Guilty of Defending Rights: Azerbaijan's human rights defenders and activists behind bars* (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur55/1077/2015/en/>) and *Behind bars: Silencing dissent in Azerbaijan* (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR55/004/2014/en>).

Imprisoned human rights defenders and other activists often face pressure from prison authorities, including threats and harassment. Prominent Azerbaijani human rights defender and former prisoner of conscience Leyla Yunus reported being threatened, harassed and ill-treated during her imprisonment in the Kurdakhany detention facility (see <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/EUR55/018/2014/en/>).

Independent monitoring of human rights in Azerbaijan is increasingly difficult. Representatives of Amnesty International, as well as several other international human rights organizations and international media, were barred from entering Azerbaijan in 2015. Amnesty International's delegation was refused entry into Azerbaijan and deported from Baku Heydar Aliyev International Airport on 7 October 2015.

Name: Intigam Aliyev

Gender m/f: male

Further information on UA: 200/14 Index: EUR 55/3452/2016 Issue Date: 16 February 2016