

URGENT ACTION

MEDICAL CARE MUST BE PROVIDED URGENTLY

Azerbaijani human rights defender Intigam Aliyev's health is rapidly deteriorating due to a lack of adequate medical care in the detention facility. This comes at a time when the authorities have removed four of the five lawyers working on Intigam Aliyev's case.

Intigam Aliyev's son told Amnesty International on 12 November that his father's health is worsening daily as he is not receiving adequate medical care in the Kurdakhany detention facility, located outside Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. The medical reports provided to Amnesty International indicate that Intigam Aliyev is suffering from serious spine-related problems and experiencing severe nerve pain and a chronic headache. The human rights defender requires regular medical check-ups, appropriate treatments and physical exercises, which, according to his son, he is not receiving during his outpatient treatment in the detention facility.

Fariz Namazli, Alayif Hasanov, Khalid Bagirov and Adil Ismayilov, four of the five lawyers who have been representing Intigam Aliyev since his detention on 8 August, were removed from the case on 30 September. The lawyers were summoned as witnesses by the prosecutor despite having only a professional interest in his case. Following this, they were verbally informed that they were removed from the case because of a purported conflict of interest. They were also refused access to Intigam Aliyev. Fariz Namazli, Alayif Hasanov, Khalid Bagirov and Adil Ismayilov have not yet received any official notification of the decision regarding their removal, which prevents them from appealing it to the court. The fifth lawyer continues to represent Intigam Aliyev.

The removal of four of the lawyers, who have been representing Intigam Aliyev since his detention, amounts to a violation of his right to be represented by a lawyer of his choice, which is an essential element of the right to fair trial. Amnesty International has previously documented cases in Azerbaijan where lawyers have been threatened, disbarred and pursued with politically motivated disciplinary and criminal sanctions for representing opposition leaders and government critics.

Intigam Aliyev was summoned on 8 August to the Prosecutor General's Office as a witness in a criminal case against a number of Azerbaijani NGOs. He was detained later that day, and the Nasimi regional court in Baku ordered his pre-trial detention on charges of tax avoidance, illegal entrepreneurship and "abuse of power entailing grave consequences" under Azerbaijan's Criminal Code. Amnesty International believes the charges against Intigam Aliyev are trumped-up and considers him a prisoner of conscience.

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

- Calling on the authorities to release Intigam Aliyev immediately and unconditionally;
- Pending this, calling on them to urgently provide Intigam Aliyev with any medical attention he may require, including medication and hospitalization;
- Expressing concern that Intigam Aliyev has been denied the right to be defended by lawyers of his choice, which is an essential element of the right to fair trial.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 26 DECEMBER 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

Prosecutor General
Zakir Qaralov
Office of the Prosecutor General
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 first update of UA 200/14. Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR55/011/2014/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Intigam Aliyev is the head of the Legal Education Society NGO and one of the few human rights defenders in Azerbaijan who have provided legal assistance and representation to the victims of politically motivated persecution and submitted some of these cases to the European Court of Human Rights. Intigam Aliyev is also one 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 cooperated with international organizations to demand their release.

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 21 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 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: Intigam Aliyev, Fariz Namazli, Alayif Hasanov, Khalid Bagirov. Adil Ismayilov

Gender m/f: all m

Further information on UA: 200/14 Index: EUR 55/022/2014 Issue Date: 14 November 2014