

URGENT ACTION

JOURNALIST ATTACKED AND FAMILY THREATENED

Independent Azerbaijani journalist, Ilgar Nasibov, and his family continue receiving threats after he was brutally attacked by unidentified people on 21 August.

Azerbaijani journalist and human rights defender **Ilgar Nasibov** was severely beaten by unidentified people on 21 August as they stormed the office of the Democracy and NGO Development Resource Centre in the Nakhichevan exclave of Azerbaijan. Ilgar Nasibov was found unconscious in the ransacked office with severe head trauma and broken bones in his face.

Ilgar Nasibov's family link the attack to his journalism and human rights activism. 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.

Following the attack, Ilgar Nasibov and his wife have been receiving phone calls threatening to kill their children if they continue their journalistic work. Ilgar Nasibov and Malahat Nasibova are also followed by unidentified persons whenever they leave their house, including during Ilgar Nasibov's hospital visits for treatment.

Threats and harassment toward the couple are not new. On 6 July, Ilgar Nasibov was hit by a car. The couple believe this accident was deliberate and part of the authorities' attempt to intimidate them. As Malahat Nasibova told Amnesty International, they have always been under regular intimidation because government officials want them to leave the region, as they are "the only remaining independent voices there". Ilgar Nasibov was also arrested and sentenced to 90 days in prison on 7 December 2007 on charges of "slandering police officers" after he had sent a complaint to the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, about police harassment of journalists. Malahat Nasibova was also briefly detained that day and interrogated regarding Ilgar Nasibov and their journalistic work.

Even though the authorities reportedly detained one of the assailants of Ilgar Nasibov, they have not initiated a criminal investigation, and the victim has not been given any official information regarding his case.

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

- Calling on the authorities to immediately, impartially and effectively investigate the attack on Ilgar Nasibov, as well as the ongoing threats and harassment against him and his family 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 16 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

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 28 96
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.

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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.

Amnesty International has documented cases like that of Ilgar Nasibov, and 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 (m), Malahat Nasibova (f)
Gender m/f: both

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