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Press freedom trampled in Azerbaijan

Journalists, bloggers and social activists trying to expose human rights violations in Azerbaijan see their efforts thwarted at every step.

The pre-Eurovision crackdown on freedom of expression by the Azerbaijani authorities continues unabated.

On the eve of World Press Freedom Day, Amnesty International is publishing an update on its research on violations against freedom of expression in Azerbaijan. Public gatherings dispersed with violence; journalists and human rights defenders threatened, jailed, even beaten unconscious by state officials - [*Azerbaijan: Authorities determined to silence dissent to ensure successful Eurovision*](#) documents a catalogue of glaring human rights abuses in the build-up to the song contest on May 26.

See also:

[*Azerbaijan: No more running scared: 2012 EUROVISION host country Azerbaijan must allow all voices to be heard*](#)

Note to Editors

A series of articles related to World Press Freedom Day is at www.amnesty.org, including:

- Testimonies from bloggers in Cuba, Iran, Azerbaijan and China (including photos).
- A global overview of the state of press freedom across the world.
- A short report looking at the increased harassment of journalists, bloggers and activists since the independence of South Sudan in January 2011.
- An update on the situation of freedom of expression in Azerbaijan.
- A blog by Honduran journalist Dina Meza, where she describes the difficulties of reporting human rights stories in a country where journalists are at great risk.