

LIST OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

Union for the Freedom for Political Prisoners of Azerbaijan

On 27 February 2023

93 persons

After former KGB general Heydar Aliyev came to power in 1993, in Azerbaijan, political repressions began in the country. In 2003, he was replaced by his son Ilham Aliyev, and the repressions against dissidents became systematic. Azerbaijani human rights defenders regularly compile the list of “prisoners of conscience” and political prisoners.

Current list, on 4 November 2022, includes all arrested and convicted on political motives, about whom it was possible to collect detailed information.

This list consists of 7 groups and includes 93 people:

- Group № 1 Journalists and Bloggers – 6 persons
- Group № 2 Members of Opposition Parties and Movements – 6 persons
- Group № 3 Political emigrants deported from Germany – 5 persons
- Group № 4 Peaceful Believers – 29 persons
- Group № 5 Convicted in Tartar case - 8 persons
- Group № 6 Convicted in Ganja case - 26 persons
- Group № 7 Life Term Sentenced – 13 persons

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Work method: Given list is compiled in accordance with a norm that defines the concept of “political prisoner” expounded in corresponding Resolution # 1900, adopted at the Parliamentary Assembly Session of the Council of Europe (PACE) in October 2012.

GROUP № 1

JOURNALISTS AND BLOGGERS – 6 persons

1. **Polad Aslanov** – the Chief Editor of www.xeberman.com and www.press-az.com websites



Arrested: 12 June 2019

Charge: Article 274 (*Treason to the state*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 16 November 2020, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 16 years in prison

Place of detention: Pre-trial Detention Center of the State Security Service

Conclusion:

Polad Aslanov pleaded not guilty and linked the arrest to his journalistic activities, since in his articles he wrote and mentioned the names of the MNS officers (now the State Security Service) who take bribes from Azerbaijani pilgrims traveling to holy places when they cross the border.

2. **Abid Qafarov** - the Chairman of the public association "*The Baku Unity Organisation*", "KimTV" channel host on Youtube



Arrested: 13 July 2022

Charge: Articles 147.1 (*Slander*) and 148 (*Insult*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 13 July 2022, the Yasamal District Court sentenced to 1 year in prison

Conclusion:

On 13 July, it was a lawsuit brought by a group of Karabakh veterans against A.Qafarov. According to their allegations, Abid Qafarov insulted the veterans by calling them "troublemakers" while addressing the Yasamal District Court on 27 May. However, the veterans told the Court as of today there has been reconciliation between the parties and they were no longer complaining about Abid Qafarov. They had also filed a motion to withdraw the lawsuit. Nevertheless, the judge Tarlan Akbarov made a decision to send the case to the Yasamal District Court.

3. Osman Narimanoglu Rzayev – journalist and owner of the <https://demokratik.az> website



Arrested: 5 July 2022

Charge: Article 182.2.2 (*Extortion or requirement to transfer another's property or right on property or commitment of other actions committed repeatedly*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 7 July 2022, the Goygol District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Osman Narimanoglu Rzayev in the form of detention for a period of 4 month.

On 6 November 2022 the pre-trial detention was extended by 3 months. On 1 February 2023 the criminal case was sent to the judge of the Ganja Court for Serious Crimes Roman Akbarli.

Place of detention: Ganja City Pre-trial Detention Center № 2

Conclusion:

On 5 July 2022, Osman Narimanoglu Rzayev was arrested on charges of extorting money from the officials of the Land Reclamation Department and Physicians of Goranboy and Goygol districts. At the end of 2018, Osman Rzayev filed a lawsuit in the Goygol Court, in which he accused the Head of the Land Reclamation of Goygol district, Ilqar Maharramov, in slander and blackmailing.

Following his arrest, the journalist claimed that the accusations had been false and that he had been slandered by those he had published revelatory material on the corruption about. Meanwhile, Ilqar Hajizade, the Goygol District Prosecutor, had taken the side of the corruptionists.

Osman Rzayev claims that the prosecution neither has evidence of extortion nor there is any evidence at all.

Osman Rzayev, while being in the detention center, passed a message through his relatives in which he reported the moral torture he had been subjected to by the investigative and prosecutorial authorities.

According to the Article 91 of the Criminal Code of Azerbaijan Republic, an individual may request a transfer of his/her case to a public trial hearing whilst being under investigation. Osman Rzayev is demanding a public trial. He believes that along with the unlawful prolongation of the investigation, he is being subjected to moral torture.

4. Aslan Qurbanov – blogger



Arrested: 14 July 2020

Charge: Article 281.2 (*Calls against the state*) and 283.1 (*Incitement of national, religious, social discord*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 15 April 2021, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 7 years in prison

Conclusion:

Blogger Aslan Qurbanov published a post on Facebook with statements about the arrest of an activist of the *Popular Front of Azerbaijan Party* Pasha Umudov and former Defense Minister Rahim Gaziyeu, demanding their release. Aslan Qurbanov suffers from a serious neurological disease and, at the request of the defense, was transferred from the Detention Centre of the State Security Service to the Medical Institution of the Penitentiary Service.

5. Rashad Ramazanov - blogger



Date of arrest: 20 May 2022

Charge: Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 21 May 2022, the Baku City Sabunchi District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Rashad Ramazanov in the form of detention for a period of 4 month.

In September 2022 and January 2023, the Baku City Sabunchi District Court extended the terms of imprisonment each time for another 4 months.

Place of detention: Pre-trial Detention Center No. 1 of Kyurdakhani

Conclusion:

Earlier, Rashad Ramazanov was arrested twice for his political views. He was last released in 2019 by a pardon decree after 7 years in prison.

Recall that Rashad Ramazanov was arrested twice for his political views. He was released in 2019 by Presidential pardon in March 2019.

On 20 May 2022, at about 4 pm he was detained and brought to the 14th Police Station of the Sabunchi District Police Department of Baku. Later, officers of this police station reported that Rashad Ramazanov was detained by the Main Directorate for Combating Drug of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. After the arrest, he was taken to the Binagadi District Police Department. Rashad Ramazanov denied all the accusations against him.

6. Bakhtiyar Hajiyev – blogger and civil activist



Date of arrest: 9 December 2022

Charge: Articles 221.1 (*Hooliganism*) and 289.1 (*Disrespect to court*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Bakhtiyar Hajiyev was detained on 9 December 2022 on charges of hooliganism and contempt of court. On the same day, the Khatai District Court arrested him for 1 month and 20 days.

On 15 December 2022, Hajiyev went on a hunger strike demanding his release. On 28 December he ended his hunger strike after persistent calls from the public and family members. However, on 9 January 2023, he resumed his hunger strike after the appeal court refused to release him and continues to this day.

On 21 January 2023, the court extended Hajiyev's arrest for another 1 month.

On 20 February 2023, the Baku Court of Appeal rejected the complaint against the decision of the Khatai court, which refused to change the preventive measure of arrest to house arrest for Bakhtiyar Hajiyev.

On 23 February 2023, the Khatai District Court of Baku extended for another two months the arrest of public activist Bakhtiyar Hajiyev until 28 April 2023.

It should be noted that so far the court has rejected the activist's complaints four times about changing his measure of restraint to house arrest.

Place of detention: Pre-trial Detention Center No. 1 of Kyurdakhani

Conclusion:

On 9 December 2022, the day before the International Human Rights Day, Bakhtiyar Hajiyev was arrested on December 9 last year on charges of hooliganism and disrespect for court. On the same day, the Khatai District Court arrested him for 1 month and 20 days.

He was abducted twice by law enforcement agencies and subjected to physical and psychological pressure by them. B. Hajiyev criticized the Ministry of Internal Affairs and personally the minister Vilayat Eyvazov.

Mr. Hajiyev, speaking in court, rejected the charges against him and said that he was being persecuted for his political activities, including for criticizing the government at international forums.

GROUP № 2

MEMBERS OF OPPOSITION PARTIES AND MOVEMENTS

– 5 persons

7. Elchin Mammad - the Head of the non-governmental organization (NGO) “*Legal Enlightenment of the Sumqayıt Youth*” and the chief editor of the website www.yukselis.info



Date of arrest: 30 March 2020

Charge: Article 177.2.4 (*Theft of property causing significant damage*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Sentence: On 14 October 2020, the Sumqayıt City Court sentenced to 4 years in prison

Conclusion:

Elchin Mammad pleaded not guilty, saying that his arrest is related to a report published by him the day before on the violation and suppression of human rights in Azerbaijan.

Amnesty International published statement about arrest of Elchin Mammad:

“Azerbaijani human rights defender Elchin Mammad was arrested on 30 March 2020 and has been detained since under trumped up charges, after publishing online a critical report on the human rights situation in Azerbaijan. Elchin Mammad should be released immediately and unconditionally.” –

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur55/2069/2020/en/>

Amnesty International Netherlands is holding Urgent Action for Elchin Mammad, which you may find here: <https://www.amnesty.nl/forms/urgentaction-azerbeidzjan-elchin-mammad>

8. Niyamaddin Ahmadov - member of the *Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan*



Date of arrest: 16 April 2020

Charge: Article 214-1 (*Financing terrorism*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 8 October 2021, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 13 years in prison

Conclusion:

On 16 April 2020, Niyamaddin Ahmadov was placed in custody for 30 days under administrative detention "for violating quarantine measures and disobeying the lawful demands of a police officer". The Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan made a special statement stating that during the administrative arrest N. Ahmadov had been taken out of the Binagadi Temporary Detention Facility and placed in the Pre-trial Detention Center of the State Security Service, where he had been subjected to torture in the form of inflicting physical injuries by means of beating and with the use of a taser. N. Ahmadov was kept in the Pre-trial Detention Center of the State Security Service, where he was tortured for 10 days. N. Ahmadov was forced to testify against Ali Karimli and other party members. On 9 May 2020, he was brought back to the Binagadi Temporary Detention Facility.

On 16 May 2020, Niyamaddin Ahmadov's 30-day administrative arrest was due to expire. His family, relatives, friends and the journalists were waiting for Niyamaddin Ahmadov at the exit of the Binagadi Temporary Detention Facility, where he had to be kept, but they were unable to meet him. The media wrote about his disappearance. There was no news about Niyamaddin Ahmadov for three days.

Only on 19 May 2020, the Azerbaijan Republic General Prosecutor's Office released the information about the initiation of criminal case against Niyamaddin Ahmadov confirming his detention in the Pre-trial Detention Center of the State Security Service. In the statement of the General Prosecutor's Office it was indicated that Ahmadov had received money from his fellow villager Qabil Mammadov residing in Germany in order to finance some terrorist organizations.

9. Aqil Humbatov - member of the *Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan*



Date of arrest: 15 August 2021

Charge: Article 126.1 (*Intentional infliction of serious harm to health*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 15 November 2021, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 10 years in prison

Conclusion:

An activist of an opposition party is being persecuted for criticizing the authorities on social networks. On the eve of his detention, Aqil Humbatov's Facebook page was hacked and his video messages to the president, where he demanded the establishment of child benefits, were deleted. A. Humbatov was previously arrested on slanderous charges. In 2020, according to the perjury of one woman, Aqil Humbatov was placed in a psychiatric hospital.

10. Ali Aliyev – Chairman of the *Citizens and Development Party of Azerbaijan*



Date of arrest: 13 January 2022

Charge: Article 127.2.3 (*Deliberate causing of minor serious harm to health committed in publicly dangerous way or from hooligan prompting*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Sentence: On 22 November 2022, the Baku City Sabunchi District Court sentenced to 3,5 years in prison

Judge: Anar Rzayev

Conclusion:

On 13 January 2022, Ali Aliyev was sentenced on charges of slander by the Yasamal District Court of Baku to five months' imprisonment. The lawsuit was brought by Emil Jafarov, an officer of the Border Guard Service. The reason for the lawsuit was A. Aliyev's interview on 9 December 2021 to oppositional Youtube Channel *Osmanqizi TV*, in which he doubted that there could have been survivors in the crashed Border Guard Service Mi-17 helicopter. E. Jafarov and another officer who survived the crash considered Aliyev's statement as a slander.

Note that Aliyev's sentence was later extended to 1 year of imprisonment at the suit of former "Yeni Azerbaijan" ruling party functionary Ramiz Goyushev. A fourth criminal case was launched against Aliyev in August.

In August 2022, a fourth criminal case was opened against Ali Aliyev. According to the indictment, Ali Aliyev beat a prisoner in the same cell with him. And on the basis of this frankly far-fetched accusation, the leader of the opposition party was sentenced to a longer term of imprisonment.

Aliyev denies the charges as saying that a provocation was committed against him in order to extend his prison sentence.

"This is the fourth criminal case against me this year, and they were all fabricated to punish me for my political activities," Aliyev said.

11. Shahin Hajiyev - member of the *Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan*



Date of arrest: 26 January 2022

Charge: Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances or their precursors committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 31 March 2022, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 4 years in prison

Conclusion:

In 2021, Shahin Hajiyeu was repeatedly detained by the police, 2 times he has been detained administratively for 30 days. The fact that Shahin Hajiyeu is under constant police persecution is due to his harsh criticism of the authorities on the social networks.

In his appeal to the public, he stated that he had been arrested upon the order on the basis of trumped-up charges. Hajiyeu stated that he had signed his testimony as a result of torture. According to the activist, no expertise was conducted after his detention, and falsified reports were attached to his case.

"They wrote that a forensic drug examination dated on 29 November, determined that I had suffered from heroin addiction. However, no examination was conducted on 29 November.

I never used either cigarettes or alcohol," Hajiyeu wrote.

The Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan is convinced that the real reason for the activist's arrest is his critical publications against the authorities on the social networks.

12. Alizamin Oqtay oglu Salayev - member of the *Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan*



Date of arrest: 7 February 2023

Charge: Article 221.3 (*Hooliganism committed with application of a weapon or subjects, used as the weapon*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On the same day, on 7 February 2023, the Baku City Qaradag District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Shahin Qadirli in the form of detention for a period of 3 month.

Place of detention: Pre-trial Detention Center No. 1 of Kyurdakhani

Conclusion:

According to the lawyer Neymat Karimli, Mr. Salayev denies the charges brought against him.

"He said that a planned provocation was committed against him. Last night, at a bus stop in the Lokbatan circle, he was attacked by a man with a knife, insulting Salayev. To defend himself, Salayev pushed this man away and wanted to leave the territory. However, a few minutes later, the police detained Salayev," the lawyer said.

According to him, as a sign of protest, Salayev went on a hunger strike from the day of his arrest. In turn, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, on the night of 7 February, a resident of the village of Sahil, Natiq Suleymanov was stabbed in the stomach and arm. The attacker fled the scene. The wounded man was hospitalized. After it, the police officers detained the suspect Zamin Salayev.

It is worth recalling that Alizamin Salayev has been arrested several times before on administrative and criminal charges.

GROUP № 3

POLITICAL EMIGRANTS DEPORTED FROM GERMANY

– 5 persons

13. Mutallim Orujev - member of the *Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan*



Date of arrest: 23 October 2021

Charge: Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 21 October 2022, the Sumgayit City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 7 years in prison

Judge: Fahmin Humbatov

Conclusion:

Mutallim Orujev, a member of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan Party, had lived in Germany the past several years. He participated in the rallies concerning the protection of the political prisoners' rights in Azerbaijan. On 1 June 2021, Mutallim Orujev was deported from Germany to Azerbaijan. The media sources informed that the Azerbaijani citizens deported from Germany some months earlier had been questioned by the police; some of them had been detained.

14. Malik Rzayev - member of the *Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan*



Date of arrest: 25 October 2021

Charge: Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 28 September 2022, the Sumgayit City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 7 years in prison

Conclusion:

Malik Rzayev, a member of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan Party, had lived in Germany the past several years. He participated in the rallies concerning the protection of the political prisoners' rights in Azerbaijan. On 1 June 2021, M. Rzayev was deported from Germany to Azerbaijan.

On 25 October 2021, he was arrested in the Taqiyeve settlement of Sumgayit. Lawyer Neymat Karimli declared a violation of the procedural Code and considers the arrest politically motivated:

"From the beginning the investigation was conducted with violations. After the arrest, Rzayev was not allowed to call relatives and invite his lawyer. The state lawyer did not even write an appeal against the arrest. Unfortunately, I was involved to the defense late and the deadline for the arrest appeal has been missed. We will file a motion to change the preventive measure to house arrest. I have already written a complaint to the Sumgait City Prosecutor's Office in connection with Rzayev's statement about torture."

According to Karimli, Rzayev told him about torture:

"Malik Rzayev was brutally beaten up, his legs were parted into splits; they threatened to rape him with a foreign object. Under such pressure, he was forced to testify about the allegedly found drugs on him," the advocate has stated.

Rzayev denied the accusation. He was arrested almost simultaneously with activist of the Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan Muallim Orujev, who was also deported from Germany last summer. According to human rights activists, in Germany both participated in actions in defense of political prisoners in Azerbaijan.

15. Punkhan Karimli - member of the *Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan*

Date of arrest: 25 January 2022

Charge: Articles 234.4.1 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons or organized group*) and 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 27 July 2022, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 6 years in prison

Judge: Samir Aliyev

Conclusion:

Punkhan Karimli, a member of the Khatai branch of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan Party, was detained by the officers of the Anti-Drug General Directorate and arrested on the false accusation related to drug possession. Punkhan Karimli had been living in Germany for some time, where he took an active part in most of the actions organized by the political emigrants in Europe. A few months ago, he was deported from Germany to Azerbaijan and detained near the Narimanov Park on 25 January 2022.

16. Jafar Mirzoyev - member of the "Choose Democratic Azerbaijan" organization operating in Germany



Date of arrest: 24 November 2021

Charge: Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances or their precursors committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 16 January 2023, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 6 years in prison

Judge: Javid Huseynov

Conclusion:

Jafar Mirzoyev was deported from Germany. According to Karimli's lawyer, after his readmission, his clients were placed in a pandemic athletes' village of Baku and questioned by some people in civilian clothes about their activities in Germany.

The lawyer, Neimat Karimli, (defends the rights of 3 of 4 detainees after deportation from Germany - Mutallim Orujev, Malik Rzayev and Jafar Mirzoyev) said,

"The mentioned individuals, upon their return to Baku, were subjected to interrogations and they were asked about their activities in Germany. My clients testified under the pressure. The complaints concerning the use of torture against them remained inconclusive".

17. Samir Ashurov



Date of arrest: 19 April 2022

Charge: Article 126.2.4 (*Deliberate causing of serious harm to health, committed from hooligan prompting*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 21 April 2022, the Baku City Nizami District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Samir Ashurov in the form of detention for a period of 4 month.

Samir Ashurov denied the charge and started a hunger strike, demanding stop his persecution.

Conclusion:

Samir Ashurov was deported from Germany on 29 March and after arrival in Baku announced of his arrest. On 19 April 2022, he received a passport and planned to go abroad, but on the same day

was committed provocation against him. When Samir Ashurov got home, an unknown person was attacked him. He knocked Ashurov to the ground and immediately police officers appeared, who detained him and put a knife in his right jacket pocket. He was brought to the 24th Police Station. There Ashurov was beaten, and later he was beaten again in the Nizami Police Department

GROUP № 4

BELIVERS - 29 people

18. Ilham Aliyev – the acting Chairman of the *Islamic Party of Azerbaijan*



Date of arrest: 29 February 2020

Charge: Article 274 (*Treason to the Motherland*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Sentence: On 6 May 2021, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 16 years in prison

Judge: Faiq Hasanov

Conclusion:

The authorities have been actively persecuting peaceful believers, especially activists of the Islamic Party of Azerbaijan and the Muslim Unity Movement, for almost 20 years. In 2011, the Chairman of the IPA, Movsum Samadov, was arrested and sentenced to 12 years in prison on charges of attempting to violently overthrow the constitutional order and create a religious state in the country. Ilham Aliyev took his place in the Islamic party and was also arrested.

19. Sardar Babayev - member of the Association “*Spiritual figures of Azerbaijan* “



Date of arrest: 19 October 2021

Charge: Article 274 (*High treason*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 21 October 2021, the Baku City Sabayil District Court, having considered the case at a closed judicial session, issued a ruling to impose on Sardar Babayev a preventive measure in the form of detention for a period of 6 months.

On 18 September 2022, the Baku Sabayil District Court to extend Sardar Babayev's preventive measure for another 5 months, until 19 March 2023.

Conclusion:

The tension of Azerbaijani-Iranian relations was followed by the arrests of Shiite theologians in Azerbaijan. There is no evidence in the court ruling demonstrating that Sardar Babayev poses a danger to the society.

20. Fagan Mammadov - a religious activist



Arrested: 2 September 2021

Charge: Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 7 June 2022, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 6 years in prison

Conclusion:

According to the investigation, there were found four sachets of methamphetamine with a total weight of 8 grams in Mammadov's possession.

His lawyer argued in his closing statement that there had not been credible evidences in the case other than Mammadov's testimony made under the torture and provided at the Interior Ministry's Main Directorate for Combating Organised Crime. In his turn, the activist denied the charges in his closing statement, saying that on his way from Baku to Ganja, he had been detained while along with two other activists they had been transporting the shirts with non-banned religious slogans printed on. According to Mammadov, he was pushed on the floor, kicked and electrocuted while in the police custody.

Fagan Mammadov actively supported the families of those involved in the "Ganja case" by providing to the prisoners the aid collected by the believers.

21. Vugar Rasul - a member of the *Muslim Unity* Movement



Arrested: 18 June 2022

Charge: Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 18 June 2022, he was detained by the individuals in civilian clothes. No authorisation have been shown, there were no witnesses at the place. He had been taken to an unknown location.

His relatives said that though Vugar Rasul had been in custody since 18 July 2022, they had been informed about his whereabouts and charges only days later, on 22 July. He was facing a criminal case on drug charges. Vugar Rasul denies the charge.

ARRESTED ON *NARDARAN CASE*, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE *MUSLIM UNITY MOVEMENT*

Explanation about *Nardaran case* and *Muslim Unity Movement*

There are arrested at different times and in different places and are the victims of political repressions of regime that brooks no dissent and criticism.

There are all residents of Nardaran village which is located 40 km from Baku, has low standards of living and acute unemployment problem. One of the most respected by Shiites mosques, founded in the 8th Century, is located in Nardaran. Nardaran differs from other Baku villages with its religiosity. In 2000, 2002, and 2006, the residents of Nardaran held peaceful protests with socio-economic demands. In June 2002, police carried out military operation in the village, as a result of which 28 people were injured, one died. 23 people were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment on falsified charges; in espionage in favour of Iran, in attempt of violent change of power, and etc. However, as a result of the active work of human rights defenders, none of them remained in the custody after 2005.

On 26 November 2015, there was another police operation in Nardaran. Armed with automatic weapons, the police entered the village and opened heavy fire. As a result, 6 people were killed, including two police officers. Dozens of citizens were arrested. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and General Prosecutor's Office issued the joint statement, in which they explained the use of firearms against the villagers as an operation necessary to neutralise a criminal armed group that functioned under a religious cover, which planned mass riots, terrorist acts and destabilisation of the socio-political situation in the republic.

On 19 July 2016, the trial of 18 defendants in the *Nardaran case* was held in the Baku Grave Crimes Court. During the trial all the accused testified that both the policemen and four residents of Nardaran were killed by the police officers. On the trial defendants informed that the police beaten them to death in a car in which they were transported to the Main Directorate for Combating Organized Crime (MDCOC) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The accused told about brutal tortures to which they were subjected in the MDCOC. All appeals of lawyers to the Prosecutor's Office to the need of investigation of the facts of tortures and crimes of law enforcement officers were ignored.

Tale Bagirzade testified that he was beaten and tortured more than 30 days so he testified against leader of the opposition Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan Ali Karimli and chairman of the National Council of Democratic Forces Jamil Hasanli.

During the trial in the Baku Grave Crimes Court, the accused refused the primary testimony given during the investigation, indicating that they had testified under torture.

The majority of those arrested had no lawyers, all witnesses against them were police, and many of believers were convicted without trial. But when conducting trials, there were no evidence against the accused presented at these trials.

We divided political prisoners in so-called *Nardaran case* into three groups.

This group includes arrested on 26 November 2015 believers headed by the Chairman of the *Muslim Unity Movement* Tale Bagirzade

22. Tale Bagirzade – Chairman of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



Date of arrest: 26 November 2015

Charge: Articles 28 (*Preparation to a crime*); 214.2.1 (*Preparation of terrorism, committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons, by organized group or criminal community (criminal organization)*); 214.2.3. (*Preparation of terrorism, committed with application of fire-arms or subjects used as a weapon*); 220.2 (*Appeals to active insubordination to legal requirements of representatives of authority and to mass disorders, as well as appeals to violence above citizens*); 228.4 (*Illegal purchase, selling or carrying of gas weapon, cold steel, including throwing weapon, except for districts where carrying of a cold steel is an accessory of a national suit or connected to hunting*) and 315.2 (*Resistance or application of violence concerning the representative of authority, committed with violence dangerous to life or health*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 19 May 2016, the investigation brought a new charges under articles 29 (*Attempt to a crime*), 120.2.1 (*Deliberate murder, committed by group of persons, on preliminary arrangement by group of persons, by organized group or criminal community*), 120.2.3 (*Deliberate murder of victims or his close relatives in connection with implementation of a given person of service activity or performance of public debt*), 120.2.4 (*Deliberate murder, committed with special cruelty or in publicly dangers way*), 120.2.7 (*Deliberate murder of two or more persons*) and 120.2.12 (*Deliberate murder on motive of national, racial, religious hatred or enmity*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 25 January 2017, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 20 years in prison

Judge: Alovsat Abbasov

Place of detention: Gobustan Closed Prison

23. Jahad Balakishiyev



Date of arrest: 26 November 2015

Charge: see articles charges Tale Bagirzade

Sentence: On 25 January 2017, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 14 years and 6 months in prison

Judge: Aloysat Abbasov

24. Javad Valiyev



Date of arrest: 26 November 2015

Charge: see articles charges Tale Bagirzade

Sentence: On 25 January 2017, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 14 years and 6 months in prison

Judge: Aloysat Abbasov

25. Jabbar Jabbarov



Date of arrest: 26 November 2015

Charge: see articles charges Tale Bagirzade

Sentence: On 25 January 2017, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 19 years in prison

Judge: Aloysat Abbasov

Place of detention: Gobustan Closed Prison

26. Rasim Jabrayilov



Date of arrest: 26 November 2015

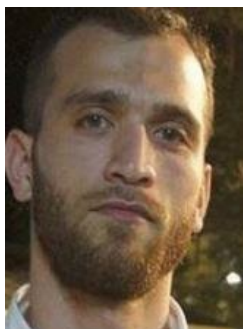
Charge: see articles charges Tale Bagirzade

Sentence: On 25 January 2017, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 17 years in prison

Judge: Aloysat Abbasov

Place of detention: Gobustan Closed Prison

27. Abbas Huseynov



Date of arrest: 26 November 2015

Charge: see articles charges Tale Bagirzade

Sentence: On 25 January 2017, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 20 years in prison

Judge: Aloysat Abbasov

Place of detention: Gobustan Closed Prison

This group includes believers arrested on Nardaran and other regions of Azerbaijan after 26 November 2015

28. Hasan Mammadov

Date of arrest: 6 December 2015

Charge: Articles 214.2.1 (*Preparation of terrorism, committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons, by organized group or criminal community (criminal organization)*); 214.2.3 (*Preparation of terrorism, committed with application of fire-arms or subjects used as a weapon*); 214-2 (*Public calls for terrorism*); 220.2 (*Appeals to active insubordination to legal requirements of representatives of authority and to mass disorders, as well as appeals to violence above citizens*); 221.2.2 (*Committed with resistance to representative of the authority, acting as on*

protection of a social order or stopping infringement of a social order or with resistance to other person); 228.3 (Illegal purchase, transfer, selling, storage, transportation and carrying of fire-arms, accessories to it, supplies or explosives, committed by organized group); 228.4 (Illegal acquisition, selling or carrying of gas weapon, cold steel, including throwing weapon, except for districts where carrying of a cold steel is an accessory of a national suit or connected to hunting); 279.1 (Creation of armed formations or groups, which are not provided by the legislation of the Azerbaijan Republic, and also participation in their creation and activity, supplying them by weapon, ammunition, explosives, military engineering or military equipment); 281.2 (Public appeals directed against the state, committed repeatedly or by group of persons); 283.2.3 (Excitation of national, racial or religious hostility committed by person with use of the service position) and 315.1 (Application of violence, resistance with application of violence concerning the representative of authority in connection with performance of official duties by him or application of the violence not dangerous to life or health concerning his close relatives, as well as threat of application of such violence) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 6 December 2017, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 12 years and 3 months in prison

Judge: Zeynal Agayev

Members of the Muslim Unity Movement

29. Seyfaddin Shirvanov

Date of arrest: 6 December 2015

Charge: Articles 214.2.1 (*Preparation of terrorism, committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons, by organized group or criminal community (criminal organization); 214.2.3 (Preparation of terrorism, committed with application of fire-arms or subjects used as a weapon); 214-2 (Public calls for terrorism); 220.2 (Appeals to active insubordination to legal requirements of representatives of authority and to mass disorders, as well as appeals to violence above citizens); 228.3 (Illegal purchase, transfer, selling, storage, transportation and carrying of fire-arms, accessories to it, supplies or explosives, committed by organized group); 228.4 (Illegal acquisition, selling or carrying of gas weapon, cold steel, including throwing weapon, except for districts where carrying of a cold steel is an accessory of a national suit or connected to hunting); 233 (Organization of actions promoting infringement of a social order or active participation in such actions); 278 (Violent capture power or violent deduction power); 279.1 (Creation of armed formations or groups, which are not provided by the legislation of the Azerbaijan Republic, and also participation in their creation and activity, supplying them by weapon, ammunition, explosives, military engineering or military equipment); 281.2 (Public appeals directed against the state, committed repeatedly or by group of persons); 283.2.3 (Excitation of national, racial or religious hostility committed by person with use of the service position) and 315.1 (Application of violence, resistance with application of violence concerning the representative of authority in connection with performance of official duties by him or application of the violence not dangerous to life or health concerning his close relatives, as well as threat of application of such violence) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic*

Sentence: On 28 December 2017, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 12 years and 3 months in prison

Judge: Mail Bayramov

30. Ahsan Nuruzade - activist of the *Muslim Unity* Movement



Date of arrest: 6 October 2017

Charge: Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances, committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons or organized group in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 6 March 2018, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 7 years in prison

Judge: Sabuhi Huseynov

Conclusion:

Ahsan Nuruzade actively participated in the protection of the rights of arrested members of the *Muslim Unity* Movement, assisted in covering of the trial in media and social networks. In 2016, twice was detained administratively. On 6 October 2017, A. Nuruzade was again detained in the courtyard of his house by persons in civilian clothes. Three days the lawyer appealed to the police and the courts, trying to establish his location. But only on the evening of 9 October 2017 official of the Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani confirmed that A. Nuruzade transferred to the detention centre.

31. Shamkhal Eyvazov - activist of the *Muslim Unity* Movement



Date of arrest: 27 April 2018

Charge: Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances, committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons or organized group in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Place of detention: Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

Conclusion:

Shamkhal Eyvazov is a theologian, studied in Iran in the Qum City, actively participated in publishing site www.sizinyol.com. For this, his family for a long time is controlled by the police. On 16 April 2018, Shamkhal Eyvazov together with his brother Migdad Eyvazov passed a customs inspection at the border with Iran and were detained and taken to the Main Directorate for Combating Organized Crime of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Azerbaijan, where illegally detained more than 4 days. Only then they announced a ban on leaving the country. The arrest of Shamkhal Eyvazov is a continuation of repressions against peaceful believers.

32. Vugar Hajiyeu - activist of the *Muslim Unity* Movement



Date of arrest: 20 May 2021

Charge: Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

On 22 May 2021, the Baku City Narimanov District Court issued a ruling to impose a preventive punishment measure against V. Hajiyeu in form of arrest for period of 3 months.

Place of detention: Pre-trial Detention Center No. 1 of Kyurdakhani

Conclusion:

On 19 May 2021, he was abducted in Agdjabedi City and only on May 20 it became known that he was in Police Station. Vugar Hajiyeu Vugar is a young believer. He was active in public affairs, including during the Second Karabakh War. Relatives and lawyer believe that the reason for the arrest of Vugar Hajiyeu is membership of the *Muslim Unity* Movement.

33. Razi Humbatov - activist of the *Muslim Unity* Movement



Date of arrest: 7 July 2021

Charge: Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Sentence: On 20 May 2022, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 6 years in prison

Conclusion:

As part of his political and public activities, Razi Humbatov led the fight against drug addiction, agitated young people for a healthy lifestyle, was very active. But any activity of members of the

Muslim Unity Movement causes dissatisfaction with the authorities and activists of this movement are subjected to repression.

34. Elshan Abbasov - activist of the *Muslim Unity* Movement



Date of arrest: 3 March 2022

Charge: Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 5 March 2022, the Baku City Narimanov District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Elshan Abbasov in the form of detention for a period of 4 month

Conclusion:

On 7 July 2021, the Department for Combating Organized Crime of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which detained Elshan Abbasov, also detained Razi Humbatov - another member of the Muslim Unity Movement, who was charged with the same article as Elshan Abbasov. In relation of Razi Humbatov, the Narimanov District Court of Baku City also issued an unreasonable preventive measure in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months.

The persecution of peaceful believers in Azerbaijan continues.

35. Shahin Qadirli – - activist of the *Muslim Unity* Movement



Date of arrest: 23 November 2022

Charge: Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 23 November 2022, Shahin Qadirli was returning home from work and was detained at a bus stop by unknown civilian people and taken to an unknown destination. Later, after the court verdict

on 26 November, the relatives learned that he was arrested by detained by the officers of the Main Department for Combating Organized Crime within the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

In the course of the trial held behind closed doors, Shahin Qadirli objected against his arrest and promised the Court that if a measure of restraint other than arrest would be chosen, then he will attend all the sessions.

On 25 November 2022, the Baku City Narimanov District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Shahin Qadirli in the form of detention for a period of 4 month

Place of detention: Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

36. Nijat Aliyev - activist of the *Muslim Unity* Movement



Date of arrest: 1 December 2022

Charge: Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 1 December 2022, Nijat Aliyev was detained near his home in the village of Masazyr by civilians and taken away in an unknown direction without authorization and witnesses. Later, relatives learned that he was arrested by the police on charges of drug possession.

During the trial, Nijat Aliyev objected to the investigators' request to apply to him a preventive measure in the form of arrest.

On 2 December 2022, the Baku City Binagadi District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Nijat Aliyev in the form of detention for a period of 4 month

Place of detention: Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

37. Samir Babayev - activist of the *Muslim Unity* Movement



Date of arrest: 2 December 2022

Charge: Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 2 December 2022, Samir Babayev was detained near his home in the village of Mashtagha by civilians and taken away in an unknown direction without authorization and witnesses. Later, relatives learned that he was arrested by the police on charges of drug possession.

On 2 December 2022, the Baku City Sabunchi District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Samir Babayev in the form of detention for a period of 4 month

Place of detention: Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

38. Mirtofiq Huseynov - activist of the *Muslim Unity* Movement



Date of arrest: 6 December 2022

Charge: Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 6 December 2022, Mirtogiq Huseynov was detained near his home at a bus stop by civilians and taken away in an unknown direction without authorization and witnesses. Later, relatives learned that he was arrested by the police of Baku City Khazar District on charges of drug possession.

On 6 December 2022, the Baku City Khazar District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Mirtofiq Huseynov in the form of detention for a period of 4 month

Place of detention: Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

39. Elnur Jafarov - activist of the *Muslim Unity* Movement



Date of arrest: 25 January 2023

Charge: Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 25 January 2023, Elnur Jafarov was sentenced to 4 months in pre-trial detention

Place of detention: Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

40. Azad Karimov - activist of the *Muslim Unity* Movement



Date of arrest: 30 January 2023

Charge: Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 30 January 2023, Azad Karimov was sentenced to 4 months in pre-trial detention

Place of detention: Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

41. Elshan Rahimov - activist of the *Muslim Unity* Movement



Date of arrest: 31 January 2023

Charge: Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 31 January 2023, Elshan Rahimov was sentenced to 4 months in pre-trial detention

Place of detention: Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

42. Etibar Ismayilov - activist of the *Muslim Unity* Movement



Date of arrest: 1 February 2023

Charge: Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 1 February 2023, Etibar Ismayilov was sentenced to 4 months in pre-trial detention

Place of detention: Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

43. Ruhulla Novruzzade – head of the “*Mizan*” Education Center, activist of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



Date of arrest: 1 February 2023

Charge: Articles 234.1 (*Illegal purchase, storage, manufacturing, processing, transportation without a purpose of selling of narcotics or psychotropic substances in a quantity (amount) exceeding necessary for personal consumption*) and 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On the night of the 1 February 2023, Ruhulla Novruzzade was detained by civilians and taken away in an unknown direction without authorization and witnesses. Later, relatives learned that he was arrested by the police on charges of drug possession.

On 1 February 2023, the Baku City Surakhani District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Ruhulla Novruzzade in the form of detention for a period of 4 month. On 10 February 2023, the Baku Appeal Court upheld the decision of the Surakhani District Court.

Place of detention: Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

44. Mail Karim oglu Karimov - activist of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



Date of arrest: 2 February 2023

Charge: Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 13 January 2023, Mail Karimov took part in the celebration of the 8th anniversary of the formation of the *Muslim Unity Movement* together with his family. The police of the Baku City Khazar District considered this festive ceremony as a religious meeting and on 14 January sent materials on the case of Mail Karimov to the court. On 26 January 2023, Mail Karimov testified

in the Baku City Sabunchi District Court. The next court session was scheduled on 2 February 2023. But when Mail Karimov arrived at the court on 2 February, he was arrested by officers of the 14th Police Department. Only after two days his family learns about the arrest of Mail Karimov and the initiation of a criminal case against him.

On 2 February 2023, the Baku City Surakhani District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Mail Karimov in the form of detention for a period of 4 month.

Place of detention: Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

Conclusion:

Activist of the *Muslim Unity Movement* Mail Karimov has been arrested several times recently. He was among five believers who were detained by the police on 20 May 2022 and sentenced to 30 days of administrative arrest. After his release, at a press conference Mail Karimov told about the torture at the police station and the attempt to rape him. And after the end of his sentence, the police openly warned him that if he will continue activity at the movement's events, he would be arrested on drug charges.

On 7 February 2023, after the arrest of Mail Karimov, the police searched his home. During the search, the police tried to plant religious leaflets and photos of Ayatollah Khamenei and other leaders of Iran. However, Mail Karimov's wife began filming the search on her phone. The police tried to take her phone away from her, but the children intervened and did not allow the police to throw something.

45. Jeyhun Arif oglu Balashov - activist of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



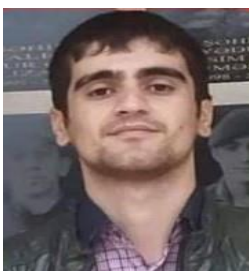
Date of arrest: 2 February 2023

Charge: Articles 234.1 (*Illegal purchase, storage, manufacturing, processing, transportation without a purpose of selling of narcotics or psychotropic substances in a quantity (amount) exceeding necessary for personal consumption*) and 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 2 February 2023, Jeyhun Balashov was sentenced to 4 months in pre-trial detention

Place of detention: Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

46. Rashad Aliyev - activist of the *Muslim Unity* Movement



Date of arrest: 2 February 2023

Charge: Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 2 February 2023, Rashad Aliyev was sentenced to 4 months in pre-trial detention

Place of detention: Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

Conclusion:

At the end of 2022, the Azerbaijani-Iranian relations deteriorated once again. This has once again affected the believers of the *Muslim Unity* Movement. It should be noted that the Chairman of the “Muslim Unity” Movement, Tale Bagirzade, was arrested in 2015 and sentenced to 20-year-imprisonment in 2017; be now, he has been imprisoned for 7 years in the Gobustan covered prison. Bagirzade has been recognized as a political prisoner.

At the same time together with him 10 more members of the *Muslim Unity* Movement were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. And now, in November-December 2022, the arrests of four more members of the *Muslim Unity* Movement followed on the standard charges of drug possession. But the main blow fell in late January-early February, when a total 44 members of the movement were arrested, eight of them were prosecuted again for the purchase and possession of drugs, and the rest received administrative sentences from 10 to 30 days in prison.

GROUP № 5

SENTENCED ON TARTAR CASE - 8 persons

47. Ismayil Intiqam oglu Huseynov



Date of arrest: 7 May 2017

Charge: Articles 274 (*State betray*) and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 1 August 2018, the Baku City Military Court sentenced to 16 years in prison

48. Sadayil Mikayil oglu Shukurov

Date of arrest: 15 January 2018

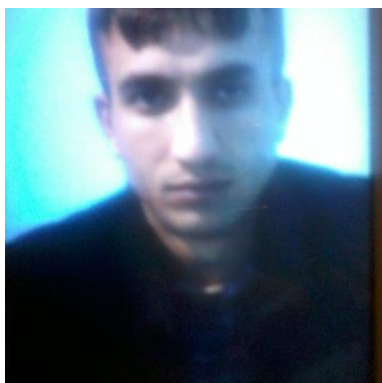
Charge: Articles 150.2.1 (*Violent actions of sexual nature, committed by a group of persons, by a group with a premeditated conspiracy or by an organized group*), 274 (*State betray*) and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 16 August 2018, the Ganja City Military Court sentenced to 11 years in prison

Presiding Judge: Vugar Mammadov

Judges: Salman Huseynov, Vidadi Nasirov

49. Nusrat Farhad oglu Qurbanov



Date of arrest: 14 May 2017

Charge: Articles 150.2.1 (*Violent actions of sexual nature, committed by a group of persons, by a group with a premeditated conspiracy or by an organized group*), 274 (*State betray*) and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 8 October 2018, the Ganja City Military Court sentenced to 16 years in prison

Presiding Judge: Vugar Mammadov

Judges: Salman Huseynov, Vidadi Nasirov

50. Suleyman Eynulla oglu Hajiyev

Date of arrest: 14 May 2017

Charge: Articles 150.2.1 (*Violent actions of sexual nature, committed by a group of persons, by a group with a premeditated conspiracy or by an organized group*), 274 (*State betray*) and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 8 October 2018, the Ganja City Military Court sentenced to 14 years in prison

Presiding Judge: Vugar Mammadov

Judges: Salman Huseynov, Vidadi Nasirov

51. Vagif Aliyev



Date of arrest: 7 June 2017

Charge: Articles 150.2.1 (*Violent actions of sexual nature, committed by a group of persons, by a group with a premeditated conspiracy or by an organized group*), 274 (*State betray*) and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 8 October 2018, the Ganja City Military Court sentenced to 16 years in prison

Presiding Judge: Vugar Mammadov

Judges: Salman Huseynov, Vidadi Nasirov

52. Faiq Arif oglu Aliyev

Date of arrest: 14 May 2017

Charge: Articles 150.2.1 (*Violent actions of sexual nature, committed by a group of persons, by a group with a premeditated conspiracy or by an organized group*), 274 (*State betray*) and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 8 October 2018, the Ganja City Military Court sentenced to 15 years in prison

Presiding Judge: Vugar Mammadov

Judges: Salman Huseynov, Vidadi Nasirov

53. Teymur Israyil oglu Hasanov

Date of arrest: 14 May 2017

Charge: Articles 150.2.1 (*Violent actions of sexual nature, committed by a group of persons, by a group with a premeditated conspiracy or by an organized group*), 274 (*State betray*) and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 8 October 2018, the Ganja City Military Court sentenced to 15 years in prison

Presiding Judge: Vugar Mammadov

Judges: Salman Huseynov, Vidadi Nasirov

54. Seymur Hasanov

Date of arrest: 10 June 2017

Charge: Articles 150.2.1 (*Violent actions of sexual nature, committed by a group of persons, by a group with a premeditated conspiracy or by an organized group*), 274 (*State betray*) and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 8 October 2018, the Ganja City Military Court sentenced to 15 years in prison

Presiding Judge: Vugar Mammadov

Judges: Salman Huseynov, Vidadi Nasirov

Conclusion:

On 7 May 2017, the Prosecutor General, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Internal Affairs and State Security Service issued a joint statement on revealing a group of military personnel and civilians that have been compromising military secrets to the intelligence and special units of the Armenian Armed Forces (for mere satisfaction of «material interests»). Authorities opened a criminal case with article 274 (*State treason*) of the Criminal Code of Azerbaijan Republic and launched a special investigative group with the members of the above-mentioned agencies. On 7 May the wave of arrests affecting not just the military but also civilian residents of the villages in close proximity of the frontline, targeted mainly Tartar region. On 7-8 May media reported 47 arrests within one day, yet they did not specify names of the detainees. After that date press stopped reporting the arrests, yet unconfirmed information from the frontline suggested that number of arrested people reached 400 by 17 May.

People were taken from their homes or from the work places. The arrests were taking places without providing the accused with the lawyer, the imprisonment was happening without the court decisions. Journalists and editors reporting on these arrests were called into the Prosecutor general's office to warn them against distribution of «state secrets».

On 16 May 2017, IPD already started receiving information about individuals tortured to death. Finally, was provided information about death of 11 people killed without investigation or trial. The information on the website of IPD:

<https://www.ipd-az.org/law-enforcement-agencies-of-azerbaijan-sanction-murders/>

and <https://www.ipd-az.org/aliyevs-regime-will-not-succeed-in-hiding-the-killings-of-citizens-of-azerbaijan/>

The bodies were not passed to the families of the killed, they were buried, in such way, trying to prevent of seeing bodies mutilated under tortures.

However, some were managed to see the disfigured bodies of their loved ones.

In 2018 closed trials took place. Military prosecutor Khanlar Valiyev fabricated charges against 78 citizens of Azerbaijan Republic. IPD managed to receive only two verdicts:

1. Verdict under No.1 (098) - 146/2018, issued by the Tartar Military Court on 9 July 2018, which sentenced 7 military to long term in prison - <https://www.ipd-az.org/ru/the-trial-of-7-persons/>

2. Verdict under No. 1-1 (095)-163/2018, issued by the Ganja Military Court on 16 August 2018, which sentences Emil Aliyev to 12 years in prison - <https://www.ipd-az.org/ru/another-unbased-accusation-of-change-of-the-homeland/>

GROUP № 6

SENTENCED ON GANJA CASE - 26 persons

55. Araz Hasanov

Date of arrest: 10 July 2018

Charge: Articles 220.1 (*Mass disorders*) and 315.2 (*Resistance or application of violence concerning the representative of authority*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 22 February 2019, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 7,5 years in prison

Presiding judge: Natiq Aliyev

Judges: Faiq Mahmudov, Khagani Samadov

56. Sabuhi Sardar oglu Rajabov



Date of arrest: 12 July 2018

Charge: Article 220.1 (*Mass disorders*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 2 March 2019, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 6 years in prison

Judge: Muhammad Bagirov

57. Iruz Tofiq oglu Hajiyev



Date of arrest: 12 July 2018

Charge: Article 220.1 (*Mass disorders*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 2 March 2019, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 7 years in prison

Judge: Muhammad Bagirov

58. Gulmirza Badal oglu Nurizade

Date of arrest: 12 July 2018

Charge: Article 220.1 (*Mass disorders*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 2 March 2019, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 6 years in prison

Judge: Muhammad Bagirov

59. Fikrat Huseyn oglu Mirzaliyev

Date of arrest: 12 July 2018

Charge: Article 220.1 (*Mass disorders*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 2 March 2019, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 6 years in prison

Judge: Muhammad Bagirov

60. Alim Yusifov



Date of arrest: 10 July 2018

Charge: Article 220.1 (*Mass disorders*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 15 March 2019, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 7,5 years in prison

Presiding judge: Elmin Rustamov

Judges: Faiq Mahmudov, Eldar Ismayilov

61. Urfan Shahin oglu Mammadov

Date of arrest: 12 July 2018

Charge: Articles 120.2.1, 120.2.3, 120.2.7, 120.2.11, 29, 120.2.1, 29, 120.2.3, 29, 120.2.7, 29, 120.2.11, 214.2.1, 214.2.3, 214.2.6, 220.1, 228.3, 228.4, 278.2, 279.1-1, 281.2 and 315.2 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 19 September 2019, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 18 years in prison

Presiding judge: Khagani Samadov

Judges: Faiq Mahmudov, Emin Rustamov

62. Oqtay Nazim oglu Huseynzade

Date of arrest: 12 July 2018

Charge: Articles 120.2.1, 120.2.3, 120.2.7, 120.2.11, 29, 120.2.1, 29, 120.2.3, 29, 120.2.7, 29, 120.2.11, 214.2.1, 214.2.3, 214.2.6, 220.1, 228.3, 228.4, 278.2, 279.1-1, 281.2 and 315.2 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 19 September 2019, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 18 years in prison

Presiding judge: Khagani Samadov

Judges: Faiq Mahmudov, Mahmud Agalarov

63. Abbas Bahlul oglu Abbasov

Date of arrest: 12 July 2018

Charge: Articles 228.1, 234.1 and 307.3 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 19 September 2019, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 7 years in prison

Presiding judge: Khagani Samadov

Judges: Faiq Mahmudov, Mahmud Agalarov

64. Elshan Mammad oglu Mammadov

Date of arrest: 12 July 2018

Charge: Articles 228.1, 234.1 and 307.3 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 19 September 2019, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 7 years in prison

Presiding judge: Khagani Samadov

Judges: Faiq Mahmudov, Mahmud Agalarov

65. Kabir Mardan oglu Azizov

Date of arrest: 12 July 2018

Charge: Article 220.1 (*Mass disorders*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Председательствующий судья: Мухаммад Багиров

Sentence: On 2 March 2019, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 5 years in prison

Presiding judge: Mahammad Bagirov

66. Rauf Fazil oglu Bayramov

Date of arrest: 12 July 2018

Charge: Articles 228.1, 228.4, 234.1 and 307.3 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 19 September 2019, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 9 years in prison

Presiding judge: Khagani Samadov

Judges: Faiq Mahmudov, Mahmud Agalarov

67. Samir Ramiz oglu Ibrahimov

Date of arrest: 12 July 2018

Charge: Articles 228.1, 234.1 and 307.3 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 10 January 2019, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 6 years in prison

Presiding judge: Elchin Khasmammadov

68. Bahram Khaqani oglu Aliyev

Date of arrest: 12 July 2018

Charge: Articles 29.120.2.1; 29.120.2.3; 29.120.2.7; 29.120.2.10; 220.1; 228.4 and 315.2 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 10 January 2019, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 16 years in prison

Presiding judge: Emin Rustamov

69. Habib Farhad oglu Qurbanov

Date of arrest: 12 July 2018

Charge: Articles 29.120.2.1; 29.120.2.3; 29.120.2.7; 29.120.2.10; 220.1; 228.4 and 315.2 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 10 January 2019, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 15 years in prison

Presiding judge: Emin Rustamov

70. Mirza Jeyhun oglu Huseynov

Date of arrest: 12 July 2018

Charge: Articles 29.120.2.1; 29.120.2.3; 29.120.2.7; 29.120.2.10; 220.1; 228.4 and 315.2 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 8 years in prison

Presiding judge: Emin Rustamov

71. Vugar Rza oglu Yusifov

Date of arrest: 12 July 2018

Charge: Articles 29.120.2.1; 29.120.2.3; 29.120.2.7; 29.120.2.10; 220.1; 228.4 and 315.2 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 6 years in prison

Presiding judge: Emin Rustamov

72. Mahir Aziz oglu Azizov



Date of arrest: 5 July 2018

Charge: Articles 29.120.2.1; 29.120.2.3; 29.120.2.4, 29.120.2.7; 29.120.2.10; 29.220.2.11; 181.3.1, 181.3.3, 214.2.1, 228.3, 318 and 320 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic
Sentence: On 16 August 2021 the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 20 years in prison

73. Jafar Zalov



Date of arrest: 5 July 2018

Charge: Articles 29.120.2.1; 29.120.2.3; 29.120.2.4, 29.120.2.7; 29.120.2.10; 29.220.2.11; 213.2.3, 214.2.6, 214.2.1, 277 and 278 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 16 August 2021, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 19 years in prison

74. Jeyhun Salahov



Date of arrest: 5 July 2018

Charge: Articles 29.120.2.1; 29.120.2.3; 29.120.2.4, 29.120.2.7; 29.120.2.10; 29.220.2.11; 213.2.6, 214.2.1, 214.2.3, 277 and 278 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 16 August 2021, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 19 years in prison

75. Jeyhun Qurbanov



Date of arrest: 16 July 2018

Charge: Articles 29.120.2.1; 29.120.2.3; 29.120.2.4, 29.120.2.7; 29.120.2.10; 29.220.2.11; 213.2.6, 214.2.1, 214.2.3, 277 and 278 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 16 August 2021, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 18 years in prison

76. Akif Ismayil oglu Aliyev

Date of arrest: 13 July 2018

Charge: Articles 29.120.2.1; 29.120.2.3; 29.120.2.4, 29.120.2.7; 29.120.2.10; 29.220.2.11; 213.2.6, 214.2.1, 214.2.3, 277, 278, 318.2, 320.1 and 320.2 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 16 August 2021 the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 20 years in prison

77. Rasim Khafiz oglu Mustafayev



Date of arrest: 11 July 2018

Charge: Articles 29.120.2.1; 29.120.2.3; 29.120.2.4, 29.120.2.7; 29.120.2.10; 29.220.2.11; 213.2.6, 214.2.1, 214.2.3, 229.3, 277 and 278 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 16 August 2021, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 20 years in prison

78. Firudin Zeynalov



Date of arrest: 1 October 2017

Charge: Articles 221.3 (*Hooliganism committed with application of a weapon or subjects, used as the weapon*) and 315.2 (*Resistance or application of violence concerning the representative of authority*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 2 November 2018, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 3 years in prison

His sentence expired in 2020, but he was not released. A new case was opened against him on fabricated charges and he was accused of committing a crime together with Yunis Safarov. However, in 2018, during the assassination attempt on the mayor of Ganja City, F. Zeynalov was in prison.

Charge: Articles 29 (*Attempt to a crime*), 120.2.1 (*Deliberate murder, committed by group of persons, on preliminary arrangement by group of persons, by organized group or criminal community*), 120.2.4 (*Deliberate murder, committed with special cruelty or in publicly dangers way*), 120.2.7 (*Deliberate murder of two or more persons*), 29,120.2.10 (*Deliberate murder, committed repeatedly*) and 120.2.11. (*Deliberate murder, connected to robbery, extortion, terrorism or gangsters*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Sentence: On 16 August 2021, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 19 years in prison

79. Hamlet Abdullayev

Date of arrest: 11 July 2018

Charge: Articles 29.120.2.1; 29.120.2.3; 29.120.2.4, 29.120.2.7; 29.120.2.10; 29.220.2.11; 213.2.6, 214.2.1, 214.2.3, 229.3, 277 and 278 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 16 August 2021, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 19 years in prison

80. Vugar Mammadov

Date of arrest: 11 July 2018

Charge: Articles 29.120.2.1; 29.120.2.3; 29.120.2.4, 29.120.2.7; 29.120.2.10; 29.220.2.11; 213.2.6, 214.2.1, 214.2.3, 277 and 278.2, 229.3 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

Sentence: On 16 August 2021 the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 19 years in prison

Conclusion:

On 3 July 2018, there was assassination attempt on the Chief of the Executive Power Elmar Valiyev. Ganja born Yunis Safarov wounded him and his body guard.

The name Yunis Safarov became well-known in Republic, after his photos were widespread on 3-4 July, at social networks, on which Safarov was lying on the floor, there were a lot of blood near

him and on him, and there were traces of tortures on his body. Photos became evidence that Y. Safarov was beaten and brutally tortured.

After this, protest action against arbitrariness of the authorities was scheduled to 10 July, in front of Ganja City administration and widespread via social networks.

On 10 July 2018, Ministry of Internal Affairs informed about the disorders in Ganja, during which two police colonels were killed. Noteworthy, those were exactly two police colonels, who on July 3rd, did not allow Elmar Valiyev's son to kill Yunis Safarov... It is also important to pay attention, that the killing of the colonels took place without any intervention of police, the killer came to the square with a dragger in his hand, and he also left it easily. State Security Service and Ministry of Internal Affairs started mass arrest among the believers. 77 people were arrested, attracted to criminal responsibility. 8 more persons were killed during "armed resistance"

All the detainees on "Ganja case" were divided into groups. One of the first verdicts was passed on 22 February 2019. Ganja City Court on Grave Crimes sentenced the group of the accused, consisting of 11 people. On 1 March and 15 March 2019, there were also the passing of the verdicts.

Analysis of the indicated judicial proceedings demonstrated that all verdicts are unlawful, groundless, unjust and passed in accordance with political order. Court ignored the absence of any proofs of the guilt of the defendants on pressed charges against them; court did not investigate numerous complaints on the facts of tortures that accused were subjected to; court crudely violated the national legislation of the Azerbaijan Republic: Article 28 and 46 of the Constitution of the AR, Article 13 and 21.2 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Azerbaijan Republic; also the norms of international law: Article 6 (2), 5 (1), 3 of European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Article 5 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, also the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Thus, judicial proceedings and verdicts demonstrated the full absence of the judicial independence and their execution of the political order during sentencing on so called "Ganja case".

GROUP № 7

LIFE TERM SENTENCED – 13 persons

Former Special Police Detachment (SPD) members – 6 persons

81. Elchin Samad oglu Amiraslanov

Date of arrest: 10 December 1996

Sentence: in 1996 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment

Place of detention: Gobustan Closed Prison

82. Arif Nasir oglu Kazimov

Sentence: in 1996 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment

Place of detention: Gobustan Closed Prison

83. Dayanat Karim oğlu Karimov

Sentence: in 1994 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment

Place of detention: Gobustan Closed Prison

84. Hasan Huseyn oğlu Mustafayev

Sentence: in 1996 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment

Place of detention: Gobustan Closed Prison

85. Safa Alim oğlu Poladov

Sentence: in 1996 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment.

Place of detention: Gobustan Closed Prison

86. Aliyusif Damat oğlu Tahirov

Sentence: in 1996 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment

Place of detention: Gobustan Closed Prison

Former members of the military detachment *Qaranqush* – 3 persons

87. Intiqam Yusif oğlu Qayıbov

Sentence: in 1996 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment

Place of detention: Gobustan Closed Prison

88. Sahib Nuraddin oğlu Mammadaliyev

Sentence: in 1993 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment

Place of detention: Gobustan Closed Prison

89. Yashar Hasay oğlu Shahmuradov

Sentence: in 1993 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment.

Place of detention: Gobustan Closed Prison

Convicted on the case of the former Prime Minister Surat Huseynov – 4 persons

90. Rashid Nurulla oglu Ismayilov

Sentence: in 1998 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment

Place of detention: Gobustan Closed Prison

91. Karamat Pasha oglu Karimov

Sentence: – in 1997 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment

Place of detention: Gobustan Closed Prison

92. Maqsud Teyyub oglu Mustafayev

Sentence: – in 1995 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment

Place of detention: Gobustan Closed Prison

93. Huseynov Maqsud Vaqif oglu

Sentence: – in 1994 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment

Place of detention: Gobustan Closed Prison

Conclusion:

In 1993-1997 the ruling regime of Azerbaijan condemned a large group of veterans of Karabakh conflict – soldiers and police officers for political reasons to death under the Criminal Code approved by the law of the Azerbaijan SSR on 8 December 1960. All convicts were tortured, some died in prison before the trial.

On 10 February 1998, the Parliament of the Azerbaijan Republic adopted the law “*On amending the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, and the Correction-Labor Code*”, to abolish the death penalty in Azerbaijan. Article 4 of this law stated that the punishment of persons sentenced to the death penalty prior to the law taking force, shall be replaced with a sentence of life imprisonment. In fact, death penalty was replaced with a type of punishment that was not enshrined in any legislation at the time.

The new Criminal Code of Azerbaijan Republic, which provides for the punishment of life imprisonment, entered into force in 2000. The old Criminal Code, which was in force until 2000, did not provide for life imprisonment, but for the death penalty and a maximum term of 15 years of imprisonment. Therefore, all persons sentenced to the death penalty before 2000 should have to replace the penalty to 15 years of imprisonment or to judge again.

It is not legally lawful for them to replace the death penalty for life imprisonment without trial and a court verdict on the basis of a decision of Parliament. When Azerbaijan joined to the Council of Europe in 2001, the Institute for Peace and Democracy (Director Leyla Yunus) presented a list of 716 political prisoners to the CoE experts. This list included also mentioned above 14 people. All of them were found for political motives.