Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
https://pace.coe.int

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Doc. 16277
01 October 2025

Situation of human rights defenders, journalists and academics in Azerbaijan

Written question No. 804 to the Committee of Ministers
by Mr Christophe LACROIX, Belgium, Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group

Several independent journalists, human rights defenders and an academic researcher from Azerbaijan who is a member of the DESIRE Centre at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) have been arrested and just been sentenced to lengthy prison terms on the basis of false allegations of corruption and/or treason. These convictions bring the number of journalists and human rights defenders imprisoned in Azerbaijan to 36. The arrests come against a backdrop of heightened repression of peaceful activists, journalists and researchers critical of the Azerbaijani regime.

Their detention is a serious infringement of freedom of expression, press freedom and academic freedom, a fundamental principle which must be protected at international level; it sends an alarming signal about the restrictions imposed on intellectuals and academics in Azerbaijan and breaches the European Convention on Human Rights.

Mr Lacroix

To ask the Committee of Ministers:

What is the Committee of Ministers' stance regarding this alarming situation and, in particular, does it intend to contact the Azerbaijani authorities with a view to conducting a humanitarian visit to these prisoners and checking their conditions of detention?

Other signatories (see overleaf)

Other signatories[1]*:*

EFSTATHIOU Constantinos, Cyprus, SOC
ESTRELA Edite, Portugal, SOC
HEINRICH Gabriela, Germany, SOC
KASIMATI Nina, Greece, UEL
KOSTADINOVSKA-STOJCHEVSKA Bisera, North Macedonia, SOC
MARTINEZ SEIJO Luz, Spain, SOC
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
TÜRK-NACHBAUR Derya, Germany, SOC

1. SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
   UEL: Group of the Unified European Left