

**Question for written answer E-003772/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Fernand Kartheiser (NI)

Subject: Protecting the rights of Armenian detainees in Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan recently ordered the closure of the International Committee of the Red Cross office in Baku, the only international organisation that had regular access to Armenian detainees. This has effectively eliminated external humanitarian monitoring of their detention conditions.

Credible reports also point to deteriorating health among several detainees, denial of adequate medical care, lack of contact with families, solitary confinement and politically motivated, fabricated charges. Despite this, during a parliamentary hearing in Belgium last April, the Ambassador of Azerbaijan stated that the trials of Armenian detainees are open to all foreign diplomats in Baku.

In September, the Armenian Foreign Minister emphasised that the issue of detainees remains unresolved and that securing their release is a critical humanitarian priority. This issue does not hinder, but rather facilitates the peace process.

In the light of these developments and the EU's mediating role in the region, what concrete measures will the Commission take to:

1. ensure that a representative of the EU delegation in Baku, or another international observer, is present at the upcoming trials of Armenian detainees?
2. facilitate urgent and independent medical assessments for detainees at risk?
3. provide a clear timeline for when it will publicly report on these steps and on Azerbaijan's compliance with international obligations?

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