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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(3.12.2025)

The principles of the rule of law and human rights are integral elements of the EU-Azerbaijan bilateral relations, as enshrined in the EU-Azerbaijan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement<sup>1</sup>. The EU has repeatedly expressed concern, both bilaterally and in public, about the shrinking space for civil society and the increasing number of arrests of independent journalists, human rights defenders and political activists. These developments were also raised by the High Representative/Vice-President during a visit to Azerbaijan in April 2025 and during other contacts with the Azerbaijani authorities.

The EU continues to urge the Azerbaijani authorities to uphold obligations under domestic and international law, and to release all those imprisoned for exercising fundamental rights. It is of great importance that Azerbaijan ensures the right to a fair trial and adequate detention conditions, in line with its international commitments. All allegations of mistreatment need to be investigated transparently.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A01999A0917%2801%29-20091101>.