



Plenary sitting

B10-0442/2026

6.10.2026

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for a debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 150 of the Rules of Procedure

on the cases of Ali Karimli, Anar Mammadli and other political prisoners in Azerbaijan

(2026/2914(RSP))

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on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

European Parliament resolution on the cases of Ali Karimli, Anar Mammadli and other political prisoners in Azerbaijan

(2026/2914(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Azerbaijan,
 - having regard to Rules 150 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas opposition leader Ali Karimli has been held in State Security Service detention on unsubstantiated charges since 29 November 2025; whereas Karimli has been subjected to increasingly punitive detention conditions, raising concerns regarding inhuman or degrading treatment;
- B. whereas on 7 September 2026, prominent election monitor and human rights defender Anar Mammadli was sentenced to 13 years imprisonment following proceedings on politically motivated charges which were marred by serious due-process violations;
- C. whereas these two cases exemplify the Aliyev regime's accelerating crackdown, including exceptionally severe prison sentences against independent journalists, academics, and civil society activists in an effort to silence all critical voices; whereas the authorities continue entrenching a climate of fear, as arbitrary arrests have become commonplace, torture and ill-treatment in custody persist with impunity, and transnational repression ensures that critics are also not safe when abroad;
- D. whereas the EU is Azerbaijan's main trading partner, accounting for around 38% of Azerbaijan's total trade; whereas Article 21 TEU stipulates that the Union's actions shall be guided by democracy, the rule of law, and the universality of human rights;
1. Urges the Azerbaijani authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Ali Karimli and Anar Mammadli and end politically motivated prosecutions and the misuse of criminal law against opposition figures, journalists, election monitors, human rights defenders and civil society;
 2. Urges Azerbaijan to ensure that their cases are addressed in a manner consistent with international standards of due process, fair trial, and detention; calls on Azerbaijan to comply with recommendations of the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture on physical ill-treatment by police and pre-trial detention centres, and to fully implement ECHR judgements concerning politically motivated prosecutions;
 3. Reiterates its profound concern regarding the ever-worsening human rights situation in Azerbaijan, in particular the government's severe restrictions on freedoms of expression, assembly, and association; calls on the EU to reassess its funding mechanisms for

Azerbaijani civil society, and align them with the strategies used to support Belarusian civil society;

4. Calls on the EU and Member States to prioritise, in line with Article 21 TEU, addressing Azerbaijan's human rights violations and use the leverage as Azerbaijan's main trading partner; insists that the EU suspends all energy trade relations with Azerbaijan and freeze Partnership and Cooperation Agreement negotiations, making both conditional on the release of all political prisoners and the reform of laws governing NGOs, media, and political parties; demands that the EU ends its dependence on fossil-fuel rich authoritarian countries;
5. Calls on Member States to subject Azerbaijani extradition requests concerning government critics to rigorous scrutiny and to ensure that asylum and protection procedures take full account of the risks arising from transnational repression;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the HR/VP, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, and the President and Parliament of Azerbaijan.