



Plenary sitting

B10-0454/2026

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))

Yannis Maniatis, Francisco Assis
on behalf of the S&D 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 Rule 150(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas in November 2025 officers of the State Security Service detained Ali Karimli, chairman of the Azerbaijan Popular Front Party;
- B. whereas his pre-trial detention was extended until at least November 2026;
- C. whereas Mr Karimli had been denied a passport for years; whereas since November 2025 more than 20 members of his party have been detained, and the party has repeatedly been refused permission to hold rallies;
- D. whereas on 7 September 2026 Anar Mammadli, chair of the Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Centre and 2014 Havel Human Rights Prize laureate, was sentenced to 13 years in a strict regime, after two and a half years in pre-trial detention; whereas his co-defendant, journalist Anar Abdullayev, was sentenced to 12 years;
- E. whereas Mr Mammadli was previously imprisoned from 2013 to 2016 for his election-monitoring work; whereas PACE has considered that his detention and prosecution were imposed for political reasons;
- F. whereas in July 2026 the same court sentenced nine journalists and civil society activists in the Toplum TV case to 12 and 15 years in prison, the longest sentences in the crackdown on media;
- G. whereas on 1 May 2026 the Milli Majlis suspended all cooperation with the European Parliament and withdrew from the EU–Azerbaijan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee;
- 1. Condemns in the strongest terms the continued detention of Ali Karimli on politically motivated charges; calls for his immediate and unconditional release and for all charges against him to be dropped;
- 2. Is deeply alarmed by the punitive and degrading conditions imposed on Mr Karimli since June 2026; urges the authorities to restore his communication rights and to ensure medical care;
- 3. Condemns the sentencing of Anar Mammadli and Anar Abdullayev; considers the verdict a retaliation for independent election observation and human rights work; calls for their immediate and unconditional release;
- 4. Condemns the sentences handed down in the Toplum TV case and calls for the charges against the Meydan TV defendants to be dropped;

5. Reiterates its call for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners in Azerbaijan;
6. Calls on Azerbaijan to repeal the restrictive laws on NGOs and media, and to stop using financial and national-security charges to silence critics;
7. Condemns transnational repression against Azerbaijani critics abroad; calls on Member States and partner countries not to extradite activists at risk of persecution;
8. Calls for EU sanctions to be imposed on Azerbaijani officials responsible for serious human rights violations;
9. Insists that any EU-Azerbaijan partnership agreement – including on energy – must be strongly conditional on respect for fundamental rights and the release of all political prisoners; calls on the Commission to suspend the 2022 Memorandum of Understanding in the Field of Energy;
10. Regrets the Milli Majlis's decision to suspend cooperation with the European Parliament;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the VP/HR, and the President, Government and Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan.