

# URGENT ACTION

## JAILED ACADEMIC'S HEALTH DETERIORATES

Gubad Ibadoghlu is a renowned political economist and civil activist. On July 23, 2023, the Azerbaijani authorities detained him on fabricated charges of the production, acquisition, or sale of counterfeit money by an organized group. The authorities have then added charges related to "extremism". His arrest and prosecution are an apparent retaliation for his criticism of the government, as well as his political and civic activities. Most recently these included helping set up a foundation for Azerbaijani students seeking funding from assets seized from Azerbaijani nationals under UK anti-corruption legislation. Gubad Ibadoghlu has major health issues, and while in pretrial detention, his life is at risk.

### TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
- [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Second Urgent Action 77.23**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

#### President of Azerbaijan

**Ilham Aliyev**

Office of the President of Azerbaijan  
19 Istiqlaliyyat Street  
Baku AZ1066, Azerbaijan  
Email: [office@pa.gov.az](mailto:office@pa.gov.az)

#### Azerbaijani Embassy in the United States

**Ambassador Khazar Ibrahim**

2741 34th St NW, Washington, DC 20008  
Phone: (202) 337-3500  
Email: [azerbaijan@azembassy.us](mailto:azerbaijan@azembassy.us)

Dear President Aliyev,

I am writing to demand an immediate release of **Gubad Ibadoghlu**, who is being held in the Kurdekhani pretrial detention center on fabricated charges of tendering counterfeit money and of extremism. His detention and prosecution on fabricated charges are retaliation measures for his prominent academic and political activities, and criticism of the government.

Gubad Ibadoghlu and his wife, Irada Bayramova, were arbitrarily detained after plain-clothed police officers in unmarked vehicles rammed their car on July 23, 2023. While Irada Bayramova was later released without charges, Gubad Ibadoghlu was remanded in detention on July 24, on charges of the production, acquisition, or sale of counterfeit money by an organized group (Article 204.3.1 of the Azerbaijan Criminal Code, carries a maximum 12-year prison term). Charges of "extremism" were later added. His pretrial detention was extended on November 16 for an extra three months. Gubad Ibadoghlu is suffering from serious health conditions, including Type 2 diabetes and hypertension. According to his family, his health has continually and significantly deteriorated in detention.

I urge you to take steps that will ensure Gubad Ibadoghlu's immediate and unconditional release. I also urge you to ensure that he is provided immediately with the necessary medical care and is protected from torture and other ill-treatment.

Yours sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Gubad Ibadoghlu** is a well-known Azerbaijani economist and politician. He is the chairperson of the Azerbaijan Democracy and Prosperity Movement, established in 2014 that has been arbitrarily denied registration as a political party by the Azerbaijani authorities. He was a senior visiting scholar at the London School of Economic and led the Economic Research Center, an NGO that conducted research on public finance management, good governance, and budget transparency. The Azerbaijani authorities arbitrarily forcibly closed the Economic Research Center and froze its bank accounts in 2014, as part of widespread restrictions on Azerbaijan's civil society. Gubad Ibadoghlu went into political exile in 2017 but returned to Azerbaijan in 2023, to visit his family.

On July 23, police officers arrested Gubad Ibadoghlu and his wife while they were driving to meet youth activists from the Azerbaijan Democracy and Prosperity Movement. Four unmarked cars surrounded their vehicle and forced it to stop by ramming it from the front and the rear. According to their daughter, Zhala Bayramova, 20 plain-clothed officers [“forced the couple out of their car, and physically assaulted them, then forced them into separate cars and drove them to the Interior Ministry's Organized Crime Unit in Baku”](#). After being released at 7pm, [Irada Bayramova had multiple bruises to her arms, legs and back](#). Gubad Ibadoghlu has filed a complaint about their ill-treatment.

Police also raided Gubad Ibadoghlu and Irada Bayramova's home and briefly detained Ibadoghlu's brother, Gabid Baymalov. On August 2, the Baku Court dismissed Ibadoghlu's complaint regarding unlawful search of his home. The Azerbaijani authorities extended his pretrial detention by three months on November 16, until February 24, 2024.

Gubad Ibadoghlu's medical conditions include heart disease, type 2 diabetes, kidney diseases, jugular vein distention, stomach ulcers and severe lower back pain, and his health is fast deteriorating. According to his family, while his blood sugar levels and general health conditions have sharply worsened, he has not had appropriate medical examinations to determine the causes and the correct treatment plan. He is also not given some of the medication he was regularly taking before his arrest. Other medications are given to him on an irregular schedule which increases his risk of a stroke and of developing further heart disease. The European Parliament adopted a resolution [calling for Gubad Ibadoghlu's release](#) on September 14, 2023. The European Court of Human Rights acknowledging the imminent risk of irreparable harm also issued interim measures under Rule 39.

[Gubad Ibadoghlu is the author of numerous academic publications and articles](#) critical of Azerbaijan and its international partners, including the EU, COE.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET:** Azeri, English, Russian, or your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** February 24, 2024

**NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN:** Gubad Ibadoghlu (he/him)

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA:** <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur55/7088/2023/en/>