

URGENT ACTION

JAILED ACADEMIC'S HEALTH IN PERIL

Gubad Ibadoghlu is a renowned economist and political activist. On July 23, 2023, the Azerbaijani authorities detained him on fabricated charges in an apparent retaliation for his criticism of the government. He suffers from serious health issues including diabetes and heart conditions. Gubad Ibadoghlu's health has severely deteriorated in custody as he is not receiving adequate health care. According to his family, his health may reach a critical point soon, unless he is released and allowed to access necessary health care.

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 **Third 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.

Ilham Aliyev
President of Azerbaijan
Office of the President of Azerbaijan
19 Istiqlaliyyat Street
Baku AZ1066, Azerbaijan
Email: office@pa.gov.az

Embassy of Azerbaijan in the United States
Ambassador Khazar Ibrahim
2741 34th St
NW, Washington, DC 20008
Email: azerbaijan@azembassy.us OR
consul@azembassy.us
Salutation: Dear Ambassador Khazar Ibrahim

Dear President, or Dear Ambassador,

I am writing to demand the immediate and unconditional release of **Gubad Ibadoghlu**, a prominent academic and political activist, who is being targeted for his anti-corruption work and criticism of the Azerbaijani authorities. Gubad Ibadoghlu has been detained since July 23, 2023 on fabricated charges and he remains in Kurdakhani detention center, where his health is deteriorating due to poor conditions and lack of adequate healthcare.

According to his family, he has not been provided with adequate medicine and treatment for his diabetes and heart condition. They fear that his health may reach a critical point soon, putting his life in danger. The International Committee of the Red Cross have not been granted access to Gubad Ibadoghlu raising further concerns that the state of his health and his conditions are very poor and being concealed by the government.

Gubad Ibadoghlu has not committed any crime and the charges against him are trumped up. The conditions of his detention and the denial of adequate health care may amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

I urge you to take steps that will ensure Gubad Ibadoghlu's immediate and unconditional release.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Gubad Ibadoghlu is a well-known Azerbaijani economist and political activist. 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 Economics 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, 2023, police officers arrested Gubad Ibadoghlu and his wife, Irada Bayramova, while they were driving to meet youth activists from the Azerbaijan Democracy and Prosperity Movement in Sumgayit, a city that is about 40 kilometers from capital Baku.

According to their child, 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 on her arms, legs and back. Gubad Ibadoghlu has filed a complaint about their ill-treatment, which was left unaddressed. According to the Azerbaijani Ministry of Interior official statement made on July 23, 2023, the arrest of several people, including Gubad Ibadoghlu, is a part of an operation against supporters of Fethullah Gülen, the exiled Turkish cleric who the Turkish authorities along with his supporters, have designated as "terrorist organization." They also raided Gubad Ibadoghlu and Irada Bayramova's home and briefly detained Ibadoghlu's brother, Gabid Baymalov.

On August 2, 2023, the Baku Court dismissed Gubad Ibadoghlu's complaint regarding unlawful search of his home. He has remained in pre-trial detention since his arrest in July 2023. On February 15, 2024, the court in Baku further extended his pre-trial detention by another three months with the new trial date set for May 20.

According to his family, Gubad Ibadoghlu's medical conditions include heart disease, type 2 diabetes, kidney disease, severe lower back pain, and his health is fast deteriorating. According to his family, he has not had appropriate medical examinations to determine the causes and the correct treatment plan. He has not been given some medication, while other medications are given on an irregular schedule which increases his risk of a stroke and other life-threatening conditions.

Gubad Ibadoghlu's unfounded prosecution is part of the Azerbaijani authorities' ongoing crackdown on human rights defenders, government critics, [independent media](#), and [all dissent](#). Criticism of the authorities is routinely met with repression, and those who dare to challenge the government face trumped up charges, unfair trials, and lengthy prison sentences.

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

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: May 27, 2024

NAME AND PRONOUN: Gubad Ibadoghlu (he/him)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur55/7530/2023/en/>