

URGENT ACTION

GUBAD IBADOGLU DENIED URGENT SURGERY

Prominent Azerbaijani economist, Gubad Ibadoghlu, who remains under house arrest on trumped-up charges, is not allowed to leave Azerbaijan to receive the urgent and life-saving health care he requires. His family reports that his heart conditions have deteriorated, that his life is in danger and that he is unable to get the treatment he requires in Azerbaijan.

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 **Fifth 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
19 Istiqlaliyyat Street
Baku AZ1066, Azerbaijan
Email: office@pa.gov.az

CC: 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

Dear President,

I am writing to demand that **Gubad Ibadoghlu**, a prominent academic and political activist arrested on trumped-up charges is released from detention immediately and unconditionally and is allowed to travel abroad to access the urgent health care he needs.

Gubad Ibadoughlu has several health conditions, including an aortic aneurysm – a serious heart condition that continues to deteriorate while he remains under house arrest, causing him increased chest pain and shortness of breath. His family says that recent medical tests show a deterioration of his heart condition, posing imminent risk to his life that requires urgent treatment or surgery. His family also report that they are unable to find a hospital in Azerbaijan that provides the surgery he requires.

Gubad Ibadoughlu has been detained since July 23, 2023, in an apparent retaliation for his anti-corruption work, and criticism of the Azerbaijani authorities. On April 22, 2024, he was transferred from the detention center to house arrest. He continues to face the politically motivated charges against him, and a travel ban, unable to leave the country or to be reunited with his family, all of whom are currently living in exile.

I urge you to immediately release Gubad Ibadoughlu and ensure that his travel ban is lifted without delay to allow him to access the health care he needs abroad. I also urge you to ensure that all trumped-up charges against him are dropped and to end the misuse of the criminal justice system in Azerbaijan to target government critics.

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 Centre, an NGO that conducted research on public finance management, good governance, and budget transparency. The Azerbaijani authorities arbitrarily closed the Economic Research Centre and froze its bank accounts in 2014, as part of a tightening of 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. After being released later that day, Irada Bayramova had multiple bruises on her arms, legs, and back. Gubad Ibadoghlu filed a complaint about their ill-treatment, which was left unaddressed.

According to the Azerbaijani Ministry of Interior's official statement made on the same day, the arrest of several people, including Gubad Ibadoghlu, was 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."

On April 22, 2024, Gubad Ibadoghlu was released from the detention center and moved to house arrest because of his deteriorating health condition and the lack of medical examinations and care at the detention center. 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 quickly deteriorating.

On October 23, 2024, Gubad Ibadoghlu's family told Amnesty International that recent medical tests show a [regular deterioration](#) and severe worsening of his heart conditions, posing imminent risk to his life and requiring urgent treatment or surgery. The family also reported that they were unable to find a hospital in Azerbaijan to provide the specialist (aortic aneurysm) surgery he requires. Under the conditions of his house arrest, he is unable to leave Azerbaijan, including on medical grounds.

Gubad Ibadoghlu's unfounded prosecution is part of the Azerbaijani authorities' ongoing crackdown on human rights defenders, government critics, [independent media](#), and [all dissent](#). Amnesty International has documented previously how [the Azerbaijani authorities sought to rid the country of all critical voices ahead of all major international events that Azerbaijan was hosting](#). This is a familiar pattern observed ahead of the 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 29), which the country will host in November 2024 in Baku.

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

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: December 30, 2024

NAME AND PRONOUN: Gubad Ibadoghlu (he/him)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-drop-charges-and-release-gubad-ibadoghlu-azerbaijan-77-23/>