

# URGENT ACTION

## IMPRISONED DEFENDER DENIED HEALTH CARE

The health of Anar Mammadli, human rights defender and climate advocate, has deteriorated in detention. The authorities are refusing to provide him with the healthcare he requires. He has been in detention on fabricated charges since April 29, 2024 and must be immediately and unconditionally released.

### 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 42.24**. 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)

**CC: Embassy of Azerbaijan in the United States**  
**Ambassador Khazar Ibrahim**  
2741 34th St  
NW, Washington, DC 20008  
Email: [azerbaijan@azembassy.us](mailto:azerbaijan@azembassy.us) OR  
[consul@azembassy.us](mailto:consul@azembassy.us)

Dear President Aliyev,

I am writing to express my grave concerns regarding the continued arbitrary detention of human rights defender, **Anar Mammadli**, and denial of adequate healthcare in prison. According to his lawyers, Anar Mammadli's health has deteriorated in prison. His arthritis has reportedly worsened, and he has developed regular stomach cramps and headaches. He is also suffering from symptoms of bronchitis, including shortness of breath and a persistent cough. Many of those health issues have started in 2014 following his previous arbitrary detention and have worsened further during his present arrest.

On October 17 and 25, 2024, he had blood tests and stomach scans carried out in the prison medical facilities; however, the prison authorities have not subsequently provided him with the result of his medical examination. The penitentiary authorities have to date failed to carry out thorough examinations and to provide him with the treatment that he requires, despite several appeals from his lawyer.

I urge you to ensure Anar Mammadli's immediate and unconditional release. Pending this, he must be provided with adequate healthcare to assess and treat his deteriorating health, including providing him with the results of his recent medical examination. I also urge you to end the misuse of the criminal justice system to target criticism and dissent.

Yours sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Anar Mammadli** is a prominent human rights defender and Head of the Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Centre. He is a co-founder of the Climate of Justice Initiative, a newly established group looking into the promotion of civic space and environmental justice within the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), which will take place in Baku, November 2024. He was among the first activists in Azerbaijan who linked respect for human rights and climate justice and was actively involved in international advocacy at the UN Human Rights Council and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. On April 29, 2024, Anar Mammadli was on the way to pick up his child from nursery when he was apprehended by unidentified masked men and driven away in a black vehicle. According to family members, police then searched Anar Mammadli's house and allegedly planted money. The Ministry of Internal Affairs confirmed his detention, and his sister reported that he is officially suspected of "smuggling by prior conspiracy by a group of persons" under Article 206.3.2 of the Criminal Code of Azerbaijan.

He was reportedly denied access to his lawyer overnight when kept in a temporary detention center in Baku. On April 30, 2024, Khatai District Court of Baku ruled to place him in pre-trial detention until the end of August 2024. Baku Appellate Court considered an appeal against the arrest of Anar Mammadli on May 6, 2024, but the appeal wasn't granted.

On October 7, 2024, Anar Mammadli personally, in a handwritten application that included an official attached application by his lawyers, applied to the Chief Medical Department of the Ministry of Justice, the Penitentiary Service, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Human Rights Commissioner and requested to undergo a thorough examination in a civil private hospital.

Subsequently, Anar Mammadli underwent some medical checkups in the detention facility. The Ombudsperson Office has requested the result of the checkups from the authorities. However, the lawyers and Anar Mammadli have not been given access to the results.

In 2014, Anar Mammadli was recognized as a Prisoner of Conscience by Amnesty International when he was given a five-and-a-half-year prison sentence on trumped-up charges of tax evasion, illegal entrepreneurship, and abuse of office. While in prison he received the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) for his outstanding contributions to civil society in defending human rights.

He was pardoned in 2016 but has since faced repeated attacks from the authorities and the pro-government media, intensifying in the lead-up to COP29. The current detention of Anar Mammadli follows a pattern of abuse of the criminal justice system aimed at silencing government critics including human rights defenders, political activists, journalists, and other critical voices in Azerbaijan.

**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:** Anar Mammadli (he/him)

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA:** <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur55/8053/2024/en/>