

## **A call for the release of those unjustly imprisoned in Azerbaijan**

Dear Madam/ Dear Sir/Dear Member of the European Parliament,

We are very concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation in Azerbaijan. During recent months, the repression of civil society and the crackdown on those who disagree with the ruling clique has intensified.

Two months ago, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the persecution of human rights defenders in Azerbaijan: <http://bit.ly/1vleNDo>.

Since the beginning of August 2014, two of our dear colleagues and friends (who are also mentioned in the resolution) have been unjustly imprisoned and the court in Baku recently extended their detention by another three months. The two people in question are:

Intigam Aliyev, a leading Azerbaijani human rights defender and lawyer who dared to criticize the Azerbaijani regime and help unjustly imprisoned journalists, activists and opposition politicians. For this reason, he has been imprisoned himself. His health has deteriorated significantly while in prison, yet the court has denied his transferral to house arrest.

Rasul Jafarov, a young activist who led the widespread campaign Sing for Democracy during the Eurovision Song Contest 2012 and drew people's attention to the human rights violations in his own country. He helped the world learn about Azerbaijan's persecution of independent journalists and opposition politicians, forced evictions, rigged elections and political prisoners. Rasul wanted to live in a democracy, but ended up in prison.

Please, join our call upon the President of Azerbaijan for the release of the unjustly imprisoned Intigam Aliyev and Rasul Jafarov! To join us, simply visit [www.cestainiciativy.cz/dopis](http://www.cestainiciativy.cz/dopis).

Please use every opportunity to appeal to Azerbaijan to release all its political prisoners. There are over one hundred unjustly imprisoned people currently in Azerbaijan!

If you would like more information, please contact us at [baku@nesehnuti.cz](mailto:baku@nesehnuti.cz)

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Petra Havlikova, NESEHNUTI – Independent Social Ecological Movement

[www.nesehnuti.cz/about-us/](http://www.nesehnuti.cz/about-us/)

[www.initiativeway.org](http://www.initiativeway.org)