Who are the political prisoners in the photos?



Intigam Aliyev: Prominent Azerbaijani human rights defender and a lawyer, head of an NGO – the Legal Education Society. He is sometimes mistaken abroad for president of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev due to the same family name, despite their very different attitudes towards law and justice. Intigam filed over 200 lawsuits with the European Court of Human Rights on electoral frauds, infringements of freedom of speech and the right to a fair trial. In 2013 the Czech minister of foreign affairs awarded him with <u>Homo Homini</u> prize. Intigam fearlessly criticized the Azerbaijani regime and helped unjustly detained journalists, activists and opposition politicians. He has been in imprisonment since August 2014, his poor health is steadily worsening.

Rashad Hasanov: Active member of youth and pro-democracy initiatives - the Positive Change Youth Movement and NIDA. He protested against unsolved mysterious deaths of the Azerbaijani soldiers and organized a campaign against corruption in the Azerbaijani educational system. Sentenced to seven and a half years in prison.





Rasul Jafarov: Founder of the Human Rights Club, an organization the authorities persistently refused to register. During the international Eurovision Song Contest held in Baku he led the Sing for Democracy campaign to draw the attention of general public towards human rights violation in Azerbaijan. This way he sent a message to the world about persecution of independent journalists and political opponents, forced evictions, electoral frauds and the existence of political prisoners. Another campaign of his, the Art for Democracy, served to inform the society on deterioration of situation with human rights in Azerbaijan. Since August 2014 he has been kept in prison.

Rashadat Akhundov: One of the founders of the youth movement NIDA. He took part in public gatherings for support of other political prisoners and protest actions against unsolved mysterious deaths of the Azerbaijani soldiers. Sentenced to eight years in prison.



Leyla Yunus: Head of an Azerbaijani NGO – the Institute for Peace and Democracy. After having been imprisoned, she is deprived of access to medical care and is bullied by her inmates, the repeatedly convicted recidivists. She was also physically abused by a prison guard. Leyla is actively nominated to Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought and Nobel Prize for Peace.

Uzeyir Mammadli: One of the founders of the youth movement NIDA. Sentenced to seven years in prison.







Arif Yunus: Conflictologist, husband of Leyla Junus. Like Leyla, he used to strive for revival of relations and building of trust between the Azerbaijani and the Armenians. Both spouses were, among other charges, accused of espionage for Armenia.

Yadigar Sadigov: Professor at the University of Lankaran, an active member of the oppositional political party. He administered an antigovernment Facebook page with 200,000 followers. Sentenced to six years in prison.





Anar Mammadli: Head of the Election Monitoring and Democratic Studies Center. In a framed-up case, at the end of May 2014 he was sentenced to five and a half years in jail for alleged tax evasion, illegal business activities and abuse of power for electoral frauds. And what was the real cause? A direct opposite! He revealed immense frauds during voting and vote counting in the course of the 2013 presidential elections. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe awarded him with Vaclav Havel prize.

Emin Huseynov: Head of the Institute of Reporters' Freedom and Safety. In August 2014 the police raided the offices of the Institute and seized all property. Emin is an exception among the others on this list, because he is not in prison. For several months he has been successfully hiding away at an unknown place.

