

# South Caucasus Countries Under Scrutiny of the International Society

No. 5

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## **In Focus:**

### **26<sup>th</sup> of June, the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture**

On June 26, 1987, the Convention against Torture came into force. It was an important step in the process of globalizing human rights and acknowledging that torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment should be universally illegal. In 1997 the United Nations General Assembly decided to mark this historic date and designated June 26 each year as the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.

The first International Day in Support of Victims of Torture was held on June 26, 1998. It was a day when the United Nations appealed to all governments and members of civil society to take action to defeat torture and torturers everywhere. That same year marked the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which proclaims that “no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”.



### **The South Caucasus Countries fell under increased attention of the international society in June:**

The Council of Europe Commissioner, Thomas Hammarberg described the condition of Freedom of Expression as “Curtailed” in Azerbaijan and urged authorities to take necessary steps.

the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Margaret Sekagya has carried out a visit to Armenia on 14-18<sup>th</sup> of June. The Rapporteur recommended the authorities to accept and strengthen the role of human rights Defenders.

On June 22-24 the delegation of the prosecutor’s office from the International Criminal Court visited Georgia. The main goal was to gather an additional information on ongoing investigation concerning alleged violations during the 2008 August conflict.

### *In this issue:*

**Upcoming Parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan: legislative amendments**



**International Criminal Court representatives visit Georgia: Meeting with civil society**



**Thomas Hammarberg urges Armenian authorities to improve the protection of Freedom of Expression in the country**



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## **Issue 1: TORTURE**

The **UN General Assembly** declared June 26 as the ***International Day in Support of Victims of Torture*** on December 12, 1997.



Referring to the **UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment**, the torture is defined as *"any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having*

*committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity."*

### **Azerbaijan: Hammarberg calls for effective investigation of cases of torture**

On 29<sup>th</sup> of June, the **Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Thomas Hammarberg**, unveiled his report on Azerbaijan following his visit carried out on March 1 to 5.

Regarding the issue of misconduct by law enforcement officials, the Commissioner called for an independent and effective investigation of all allegations of torture and ill-treatment with the imposition of appropriate sanctions.

**Source: <http://www.irfs.az/content/view/4138/lang,en/>**

*"The European Court of Human Rights found violations of Article 3 (prohibition of torture) in three of its judgments relating to Azerbaijan, and there continue to be concerns about ill-treatment by law enforcement officials. The Commissioner was informed about measures taken to punish police officials who have breached the law. The Commissioner invites the authorities to **reform the existing system of internal disciplinary investigations of police ill-treatment and introduce an independent police complaint body**"* – states the report.

**Full report available at: <http://www.irfs.az/content/view/4138/lang,en/>**

## Georgia: “Together Against Torture” – Public Defender and Empathy Center joint conference



On June 26, 2010, the Tbilisi Marriot Hotel hosted a conference “**Together against Torture**”. At the conference, the Public Defender gave a speech, the Empathy Center presented a special report, and government structures presented a strategy for the rehabilitation of victims of ethnic cleansing and war. The conference participants also discussed the condition in Georgia in connection with the implementation of the Action Plan against Torture and presented a declaration entitled “Together against Torture.”

The applications to the Public Defender’s Office show that facts of inappropriate treatment have increased in the years 2009-2010. The Department of Prevention and Monitoring at the Public Defender’s Office which monitors penal institutions discovered a number of facts of beatings, torture, and inhuman treatment. According to the data of three months of 2010, 221 prisoners with injuries were delivered to jails. Of those, 24 declared that they had received the injuries during detention. Persons placed in the penitentiary system often make complaints about beatings or inhuman and degrading treatment.

Another problem of the penal and psychiatric institutions, as well as of a lot of temporary detention isolators, is that in some of them living and hygienic conditions are so poor that this circumstance alone equals inhuman and degrading treatment.

The Public Defender pointed out in his speech that in the process of investigation into the facts of torture, the crimes are often misqualified. Investigation is often launched not on the charges of torture or inflicting bodily damage, but for exceeding professional duties, which is a malfeasance and is punishable with a far lighter legal sanction. It is obvious that such approach also hinders the emergence of the real picture of torture and inhuman treatment taking place in the country.

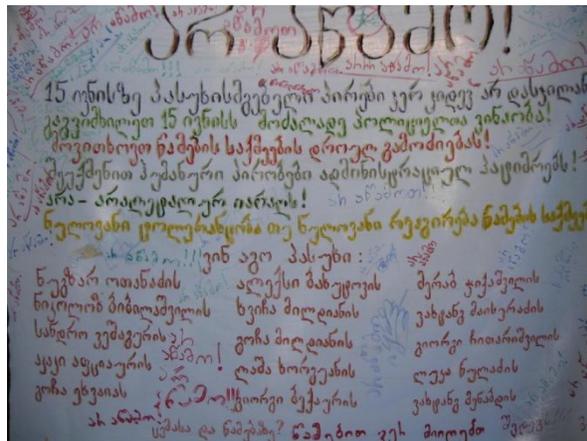
The conference was accompanied by an exhibition sale of the art works by victims of torture (victims of war and ethnic cleansing), as well as of women prisoners and adolescents.

The event was supported financially by the European Union, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, and the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (Copenhagen, Denmark).

**Source:** <http://ombudsman.ge/index.php?page=1001&lang=1&id=1291>

## Georgia: Street Action Against Torture

Manifestation in support of victims of torture was held on 26<sup>th</sup> of June at 12:00 by the **Georgian Young Lawyer's Association**, **Human Rights Centre** and **Justice and Freedom**. The manifestation was held in front of the Tbilisi Main Department of the MIA. The organizers have placed the banner calling **"Do Not Torture"** where everyone had the right to place their own signature.



## **Issue 2: ELECTIONS**

### **Azerbaijan: Approaching Parliamentary Elections**



Azerbaijan is in the eve of the **parliamentary elections** to be held on 7 November 2010. The NGOs, experts and opposition parties requested the government to take urgent steps to tackle problems in the legislation regulating the elections and to establish the favorable environment for the process, including the provision of the ***freedom of expression, freedom of assembly*** and other fundamental rights crucial for running democratic and fair elections.

One of the measures taken by the state in Azerbaijan in June 2010 was to adopt the amendments to the Election Code on 18 June 2010. The main amendments to the Election Code are the following:

- The **election period** was reduced from 75 days to 60 days and the election campaign period for candidates was reduced from 28 days to 23 days;
- **Government funding** for election campaigns of candidates in parliamentary elections was removed

It is noteworthy that the amendments to the Election Code were adopted by the parliament of Azerbaijan without any prior public discussions and have been introduced swiftly by the party in power. It was only in the eve of the elections when the increased concern of the civil society and international organizations regarding the forthcoming parliamentary elections had been expressed in the media reports and NGO statements.

#### **Sources:**

**Azerbaijan Election Campaign Time:** <http://www.news.az/articles/17707>

**Azerbaijan Amends Election Law:** <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,,AZE,,4c2b5e4ac,0.html>

### **Azerbaijan should ensure the necessary conditions for the full compliance of the forthcoming elections with the European standards**

Strasbourg, 24.06.2010 – Ahead of the parliamentary elections in November 2010, the **Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe** (PACE) today called on the Azerbaijani authorities “to ensure the necessary conditions for the full compliance of the forthcoming elections with the European standards”. In line with the conclusions of the monitoring co-rapporteurs, ***Andres Herkel*** (Estonia, EPP/CD) and ***Joseph Debono Grech*** (Malta, SOC), it encouraged the authorities to co-operate with the Venice Commission in order to continue with the revision of the electoral code and to “generate conditions for

a fair electoral campaign” by fully implementing the law on the freedom of assembly and by ensuring the freedom of the media.

In this context, the PACE called on the Azerbaijani authorities “to pass on a clear message, at the highest political level, that electoral fraud will not be tolerated” and urged all political parties to take part in the forthcoming elections. The Assembly stressed that these elections were all the more important given that “it was necessary to reinforce the application of the constitutionally-guaranteed principle of the separation of powers” and, especially, to strengthen the parliament’s role vis-à-vis the executive.



**Source:** [http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/NewsManager/EMB\\_NewsManagerView.asp?ID=5755&L=2](http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/NewsManager/EMB_NewsManagerView.asp?ID=5755&L=2)

### **Georgia: Followup on Local Municipal Elections**

On May 30 2010 local municipal elections were held in Georgia. Citizens were electing local municipalities and the mayor of Tbilisi who would be elected for the first time. Several mandates for freed up seats at the parliament of Georgia were also up for grabs.



The **Human Rights Centre** was observing the process in Kakheti, Samegrelo and Svaneti regions with 90 observers and 10 mobile groups. Large number of latent violations observed at polling stations in Kakheti region were recorded by observers. Several local and international organizations have deployed observation missions in Tbilisi and regions as well. Elections have ended with a convincing victory of the ruling party, the victory which has received a lot of criticism from local observation missions including Human Rights Centre.

*Human Rights Centre has released a separate newsletter dedicated to Local Municipal Elections*

[http://www.caucasusnetwork.org/admin/editor/uploads/files/reports/special%20edition\\_elections.pdf](http://www.caucasusnetwork.org/admin/editor/uploads/files/reports/special%20edition_elections.pdf)



In June the Human Rights Centre has appealed to District Election commissions with complaints on violations observed in Gori and Zugdidi polling stations but despite the fact that filmed evidences were provided, the commissions rejected all complaints. Results of 2 polling stations were annulled in Kakheti region with complaints from **Fair Elections** and **Human Rights Centre**

Several International Organizations and foreign agencies have reacted on elections. In particular, **NATO** Secretary General **Anders Fogh Rasmussen** stated that the



elections would have a positive effect on NATO-Georgia relations.

**Philip J. Crowley**, the spokesman of the US Department of State declared that the elections marked a progress towards meeting international standards. “But we also agree with the [OSCE](#) that significant shortcomings need to be addressed,” the spokesman added.



The [Venice Commission](#) proposed to adopt a new legislative code instead of amending the existing one. According to the commission *“This new code could take into account past and the present recommendations made by OSCE/ODIHR and the Venice Commission. This would be best accomplished through an open and transparent process of consultation with key election stakeholders that aims to reach a broad consensus.”*

### **Issue 3: SOUTH CAUCASUS COUNTRIES UNDER SCRUTINY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY**

#### **Azerbaijan: PACE resolution on “Functioning of Democratic Institutions in Azerbaijan”**

On 24 June 2010 [Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe](#) (PACE) adopted a resolution on **“Functioning of Democratic Institutions in Azerbaijan.”** The resolution was based on the report made by the rapporteurs of the PACE Monitoring Committee on Azerbaijan **Andres Herkel** (Estonia), and



**Joseph Debono Grech** (Malta). The report highlighted human rights violations taking place in Azerbaijan in every field including political pluralism, media, political prisoners, election environment etc. According to the statement, despite some progress, *“Several months ahead of the tenth anniversary of Azerbaijan’s membership in the Council of Europe, the Assembly considers that the democratic credibility of the country is again at stake”.*

**Full resolution available at:**

<http://assembly.coe.int/Mainf.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta10/ERES1750.htm>

## **Azerbaijan: Thomas Hammarberg urges authorities to improve protection of Freedom of Expression urgently**

### ***Thomas Hammarberg: Azerbaijan Should Urgently Improve Protection of Freedom of Expression***

STRASBOURG. June 29, 2010: "Freedom of expression is curtailed in Azerbaijan today - major improvements are needed" said the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Thomas Hammarberg, presenting today his report on the country. Following a visit carried out in March, the report focuses on freedom of expression and association, conduct of law enforcement officials, administration of justice, and contains some observations on the visit to the Autonomous Republic of Nakhchivan.



The Commissioner is particularly concerned about cases of threats, harassment, and violence against journalists or human rights activists which have not been properly investigated. "The authorities must better protect, from any sort of violence, journalists and others who may express critical opinions. The perpetrators of such acts should be adequately punished." He further stressed that "anyone imprisoned because of views or opinions expressed, including Eynulla Fatullayev, Emin (Mili) Abdullayev and Adnan

Hajizadeh, should be released immediately". Furthermore, the Commissioner underlines that decriminalisation of defamation is needed to bring the legislation in conformity with European standards.

While recognising the need to promote professionalism of journalists, the Commissioner has reservations about the existence of a black-list of racketeering newspapers, published by the Press Council, and invited it to reconsider this practice. Furthermore, he recommends that the authorities allow BBC, Radio Liberty/Radio Free Europe, Voice of America and Europa Plus radio stations to resume broadcasting on FM waves.

### ***Article available at:***

**[http://azerireport.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2211&Itemid=53](http://azerireport.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2211&Itemid=53)**

## **Armenia: Visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders**

the **UN Special Rapporteur** on the situation of human rights defenders, **Margaret Sekaggya** has carried out a visit to Armenia on 14-18<sup>th</sup> of June.



During the visit the rapporteur met with the Prime Minister and other senior officials from the Executive,

with Chairmen from the Constitutional Court and the Court of Cassation, with members of Parliament, and the Deputy Head of the police. Also held meetings with United Nations agencies in Yerevan. Finally, throughout the mission she met a wide and diverse segment of Armenian civil society.

Based on findings from the visit the rapporteur proposed number of **recommendations** to the Armenian Government, Ombudsperson's office, civil society and international community. Recommendations include the acceptance and strengthening of role of human rights defenders; legislative amendments; support for basic freedoms; awareness rising etc.

During the visit the Rapporteur also met representatives of Tbilisi based NGOs, the [Human Rights Centre](#) (represented by [Ana Natsvlishvili](#)), [Article 42 of the Constitution](#) (represented by [Nazi Janezashvili](#)) and the Norwegian [Human Rights House Foundation](#) (represented by [Florian Irminger](#)).

**Statement of the Rapporteur available at:**

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=10168&LangID=E>

### **Armenia: Under scrutiny at the UN for human rights situation**

The [UN human rights apparatus](#) is looking into Armenia's human rights situation from several angles: after its Universal Periodic Review in May, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders is currently visiting Armenia. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention is planning a similar visit, and the UN Committee Against Torture will soon review the country.



The [Universal Periodical Review \(UPR\) of Armenia](#) took place in May 2010 and was characterized by a considerable number of reviewing states highlighting concerns following the 2008 post-election violence, associated human rights violations including the excessive use of force, the continued absence of accountability and the detention of protesters characterized by the absence of judicial guarantees. Thematically, the state recommendations were consolidated around three pillars: the rights to **freedom of assembly** and **freedom of expression**, and the **prohibition of torture**. As for response from the Armenian side, the official position is that most of recommendations have been already implemented or are in the process of implementation.

**Full article available at:** <http://humanrightshouse.org/Articles/14429.html>

## **Georgia: ICC Delegation visits the country**



On June 22-24 delegation of the Office of the Prosecutor of the **International Criminal Court** conducted a visit in Georgia. The main purpose of the visit was to gather additional information from the Georgian authorities on the on-going national investigation into crimes allegedly committed in the context of the August 2008 armed conflict in South Ossetia, Georgia.

After the visit, the Office of the Prosecutor published a press-release.

### **No impunity for crimes committed in Georgia: OTP concludes second visit to Georgia in context of preliminary examination**

*A delegation from the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) of the International Criminal Court conducted a three-day visit, 22-24 June, to Georgia a State Party to the Rome Statute that created the Court. The main purpose of the visit was to gather additional information from the Georgian authorities on the on-going national investigation into crimes allegedly committed in the context of the August 2008 armed conflict in South Ossetia, Georgia. The Court potentially has jurisdiction over ICC crimes allegedly committed on the territory of Georgia , including forced displacement of civilians, killing of peacekeepers and attacks against civilian targets.*

*“The Rome Statute ensures the end of impunity” said ICC Prosecutor Moreno-Ocampo from The Hague . “States have the primary responsibility to investigate and prosecute; the Court only steps in if there are no genuine national proceedings.”*

*During the visit, the delegation received an update on national investigations being carried out by the Chief Prosecutor of Georgia and his team, and met with the State Minister for Reintegration, the Chief of the Supreme Court, and other senior officials from the Ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs and Defence. The delegation also met with Georgian NGOs.*

*“We appreciate the co-operation of the Georgian authorities,” said the Prosecutor. “It is mandatory that those most responsible for serious crimes be investigated.”*

*The OTP made the preliminary examination public on August 2008. Georgia has been a State Party to the Rome Statute since 5 September, 2003. Both the Russian and Georgian authorities provided substantial information on their respective national investigations. The Office conducted a previous visit to Georgia in November 2008, and to Russia in March 2010.*

*A preliminary examination is the first phase of the Office of the Prosecutor activities, in order to assess if an investigation should be opened. The Office first assesses whether crimes falling under the ICC*

*jurisdiction may have been, or are possibly being committed in a given situation; whether genuine investigations and prosecutions are being carried out by the competent authorities in relation to these crimes; and, as a third step, whether the possible opening of an investigation by the Prosecutor would not go against the interests of justice. During this phase, and in accordance with article 15, the Office proactively evaluates all information on alleged crimes from multiple sources, including “communications” from individuals and parties concerned. The triggering of a preliminary examination does not imply that an investigation will be opened.*

*The International Criminal Court is an independent, permanent court that investigates and prosecutes persons accused of the most serious crimes of international concern, namely genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes if national authorities with jurisdiction are unwilling or unable to do so genuinely.*

*The Office of the Prosecutor is currently investigating in five situations: The Democratic Republic of Congo , northern Uganda , the Darfur region of Sudan , the Central African Republic and Kenya  
Source: Office of the Prosecutor*

***press-release available at:***

***<http://www.icc-cpi.int/NR/exeres/E04BFB24-4AA8-4101-B944-20C82AFEF665.htm>***

### **Georgia: National NGO coalition submits the UPR report**

The national coalition for submission of a joint report for the [Universal Periodic Review](#) was formed in Georgia. The [Human Rights Centre](#) organized the training aimed at preparing the coalition for the submission of the report. The training was held at the office of the Georgian Young Lawyers Association and was carried out by **Florian Irminger** from the Human Rights House Foundation. It was attended by representatives of number of organizations active in Georgia including the [Georgian Young Lawyers Association](#), [Centre for Protection of Constitutional Rights](#), [Inclusive Foundation](#), [Public Movement Multinational Georgia](#), [Article 42 of the Constitution](#), [Sapari](#), [UNICEF](#) and [Trade Unions](#).

## **Issue 4: POLITICAL PRISONERS**

### **Armenia: HAK activists hand letter to OSCE Yerevan Office**

On 25<sup>th</sup> of June young activists of the **Armenian National Congress (HAK)** marched to the **OSCE Yerevan Office** chanting, "*We are with you, David!*" They handed a letter to the OSCE Yerevan office requesting to urge Armenian authorities to free **David Qiramjyan** arrested by policemen in civilian cloths on May 31 after stepping the recently renovated Freedom Square.

*"The protesters are determined in their demands and they call for an immediate release of Qiramjyan,"* David's brother **Hovhannes Qiramjyan** said. The latter says the country has appeared in such a state that people needn't get astonished by illegitimacy.



Remind that today the criminal case of David Qiramjyan and Sargis Gevorgyan has been sent to the **Court of First Instance of Kentron and Nork-Marash Administrative Districts** for the detailed investigation.

Qiramjyan is charged according to the **Article 258** of the RA Criminal Code (hooliganism) and Gevorgyan under **Article 316** (violence against a government representative).

**Article and the full statement available at:**  
<http://a1plus.am/en/social/2010/06/25/david-qiramjyan>

### **Azerbaijan: Fatullayev still imprisoned, new charges against the journalist**

Politically motivated persecutions are one of the most pressing internationally recognized issues in Azerbaijan.



Journalist and the editor in chief of the newspaper "**Real Azerbaijan**", **Eynulla Fatullaev** remains in prison despite the decision of the European Court of Human Rights, ordering his immediate release. Also imprisoned are the two bloggers, **Adnan Hajizade** and **Emin Milly**.

According to the charges against Fatullayev, heroine was allegedly found at the ward of Fatullayev, who serves his 8.5 years sentence at penitentiary facility №12 on 29 December 2009, the drugs were found in the footwear and the collar of the coat. The trail continued throughout June. On 2<sup>nd</sup>, the same month, Fatullayev went on hunger strike with demands of his release. According to Azeri human rights and media activists the government tries to

avoid implementation of the decision of the European Court of Human Rights by imposing new charges against Fatullayev.

### **Georgia: Council of Europe draws attention to political prisoners**



THE NORWEGIAN  
HELSINKI COMMITTEE

On June 14<sup>th</sup> the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) **Mevlüt Çavusoglu** visited Tbilisi. According to the opposition deputy, **Dimitry Lortkipanidze**, during his meeting with members of the opposition Mr. Çavusoglu stated that the Council of Europe is interested in political imprisonments in Georgia and the permanent commission for investigation of the issue would start working in two weeks.

From *interpressnews.ge*: <http://new.interpressnews.ge/en/politics/18441-coe-interested-in-the-issue-of-political-prisoners-in-georgia.html>



Politically motivated persecutions have been the topic of discussion ever since the new government came to power in Georgia. However a full scale coherent research has not been carried out before 2009, when the Human Rights Centre (HRIDC) and the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) conducted a research using 8 pilot cases. As a result, the above organizations confirmed the existence of political prisoners in Georgia.



FIDH and HRIDC report <http://www.fidh.org/After-the-rose-the-thorns-Political-prisoners-in>



In April 2010 the representative of Human Rights Center visited the Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Strasbourg. One of the main goals was to advocate the extension of the mandate of the reporter on political prisoners in the region to Georgia as well. On this matter, the representative of Human Rights Center held meetings at the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights. During discussions, representatives of the committee expressed the desire to study the issue and consider the initiative if sufficient evidences are provided by HRIDC or other interested parties.



HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
HOUSE  
FOUNDATION

As a followup the FIDH, Norwegian Helsinki Committee, Human Rights House Foundation and Human Rights Centre released a joint letter addressed to high ranked european officials, calling for investigation of the issue.

Letter to the European Officials: [http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/Open\\_letter\\_Georgia1.pdf](http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/Open_letter_Georgia1.pdf)

## **Issue 5: FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY**

### **Armenia: Government restricts attempts of peaceful assembly**

On June 2, the activists of the **Armenian National Congress** (HAK) were again denied access to Liberty Square. As usual, the police blocked their way without any reason. No incidents were reported.



It is noteworthy that on May 31, three citizens were detained after a confrontation between opposition activists and riot police. **Ani Gevorgyan**, a journalist for **Haykakan Zhamanak** daily was among the detainees. Her brother, Sargis was also arrested.

Both Ani and her brother were released the other day. According to Ani's statements she had not committed any crime but was obstructed from carrying out her activities by constantly being hit on the back, in legs and on the camera in efforts to take it away from her.

On the same day a group of civic organizations issued a statement decrying police brutality in recent days.

*Sticking to their policy, the Armenian authorities continue blocking oppositionists' entry to Liberty Square violating citizens' right to move with cynical motivations. Moreover, trying to create an illusion of public disorder, they take protesters and journalists covering the gatherings to police stations using violence against women and minors.*

*An obvious manifestation of these actions is the arrest of Haykakan Zhamanak journalist Ani Gevorgyan and HAK activists David Kiramijyan and Sargis Gevorgyan. Authorities spare no effort to suppress dissent*

Helsinki Citizens Assembly Vanadzor Branch  
Helsinki Association  
Transparency International Anti-corruption Center  
"Asparez" Journalists' Club

**Article available at: <http://a1plus.am/en/politics/2010/06/2/ani>**

### **Azerbaijan: Dispersal of Peaceful Manifestations in Baku**

In June 2010 several attempts to stage peaceful pickets in Baku were violently dispersed by the authorities - police and unidentified people in civilian cloths. On 5 June 2010 the assembly of **Azadliq** block uniting opposition parties in Azerbaijan was dispersed roughly. According to different reports, up to **20 people were detained** by police and the **court considered case of 11 participants** attending the gatherings and **5 people were subjected to fine**.

On 12 and 19 June the opposition parties attempted to realise new gatherings in Baku. All of them were roughly dispersed by the government. On 12 June more than **30 participants were detained** by police. **6 people were subjected to fines** in the amount up to 25 AZN. At least two activists were subjected to administrative arrest. **25 people were given administrative warning** on administrative violations.

Pursuant to different media reports, on 19 June **up to 90 people were detained. 5 people were subjected to administrative arrest** for up to 15 days. Some of the participants were fined by the court. The police dispersed the gathering by using excessive force against the participants. Among the participants beaten by police, the young activist **Rovshen Nasirli** should be mentioned, since he was beaten hard and subjected to ill-treatment.

During the abovementioned gatherings, some of the participants attending the peaceful gatherings were taken to Qobustan, the region of Azerbaijan that is 60 km far from Baku with the buses and left alone. This measure is used unlawfully against the participants of gathering as “punishment” for attending the manifestations.

*photos of dispersal of the gathering:*

<http://www.azadliq.org/content/backgroundunderfullpage/2062948.html>



