



Plenary sitting

B9-0374/2023

12.9.2023

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for a debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 144 of the Rules of Procedure

on the case of the imprisonment of Dr Gubad Ibadoghlu, imprisoned in Azerbaijan
(2023/2832(RSP))

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on behalf of the PPE Group

Motion for a European Parliament resolution on the case of the imprisonment of Dr Gubad Ibadoghlu, imprisoned in Azerbaijan (2023/2832(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolution on Azerbaijan,
- having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas Gubad Ibadoghlu is a renowned Azerbaijani political economist, Senior Visiting Fellow at the London School of Economics and civil activist, chairperson of the Azerbaijani Democracy and Prosperity Movement; whereas his party is being denied registration; whereas professor Ibadoghlu in the past conducted research on public finance management, good governance and budgetary transparency of Azerbaijan;

B. whereas Gubad Ibadoghlu went into political exile in 2017 and returned in 2023; whereas on 23 July he was arbitrarily detained when driving to meet activists from his party; whereas professor Ibadoghlu faces potentially 12 years in prison for production, acquisition or sale of counterfeit money by an organised group; whereas additional charges were brought against him, following the search of his office where allegedly Fetullah Gulen's books were seized, relating to preparation, storage or distribution of religious extremist material;

C. whereas Gubad Ibadoghlu is suffering from serious heart conditions, including type 2 diabetes, hypertension, kidney diseases, jugular vein distention, stomach ulcers and severe back pain; whereas no external doctor was allowed to see him since his detention as well as his medical records are being withheld; whereas his medical condition is reportedly rapidly deteriorating and his requests for house arrest have been rejected by the Court;

D. whereas credible independent organisations currently list as many as 200 political prisoners in Azerbaijan, detained based on doubtful politically motivated charges, including journalists, civil rights activists and opposition politicians;

1. Expresses serious concern with the arrest and rapidly deteriorating health condition of Gubad Ibadoghlu; underlines that charges brought against him are trumped up and result from his civic activism and are politically motivated; demands his immediate and unconditional release from prison;
2. Demands that pending his release he is protected from all ill-treatment in prison, provided with sufficient medication and independent medical care, food, water and unrestricted access to legal counsel;
3. Calls on the EU Delegation and Member States diplomatic representations in Azerbaijan to provide support to Gubad Ibadoghlu and his family, via trial observation, prison visits and facilitation to independent medical examination;
4. Calls on the EU and Member States to put pressure on the Azerbaijani authorities to end

the misuse of the criminal justice system to target peaceful criticism, dissent and restrictions on civil society; highlights the urge to immediately release all political prisoners and dropping all politically motivated charges against them;

5. Calls on the Azerbaijani authorities to uphold fundamental freedoms and human rights in line with their international commitments and to not further restrict the functioning of civil society and end all harassment of those stand for pluralism, freedom and democracy in Azerbaijan;
6. Instructs its President to Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU Members States governments, the President, Government and Parliament of Azerbaijan.