



20 September 2018
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UN Human Rights Council

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

AZERBAIJAN

Mr. President,

Politically motivated prosecution and imprisonment of government critics and other dissenting voices, on politically motivated charges, is one of Amnesty International's longstanding human rights concerns in Azerbaijan. Currently, over 100 victims of politically motivated prosecution languish in Azerbaijani jails. We therefore deeply regret Azerbaijan's rejection of recommendations to end all politically motivated legal proceedings and release all persons held for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.¹

Amnesty International and other human rights groups have documented numerous cases in Azerbaijan of prosecution and imprisonment of government critics on trumped-up charges, in proceedings that manifestly breach international law and fair trial standards. In this regard, we welcome Azerbaijan's acceptance of recommendations to ensure the independence, impartiality and transparency of the judiciary and to respect the rights of lawyers.²

Many inmates, and especially victims of politically motivated prosecution, routinely allege being subjected to torture and other forms of ill-treatment while in detention. We therefore welcome Azerbaijan's acceptance of a recommendation to improve conditions in prisons and detention centers and ensure access to medical care.³ However, this does not go far enough and we profoundly regret that Azerbaijan has rejected more specific recommendations to prevent torture and other ill-treatment in

¹ Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, A/HRC/39/14, recommendations 141.31 (Norway), 141.32 (Australia), 141.34 (Sweden), and 141.38 (United States of America).

²A/HRC/39/14, recommendations 140.70 and 140.73 (France).

³ A/HRC/39/14, recommendation 140.50 (Czechia).

detention, and to ensure that all allegations of torture are investigated effectively, independently and impartially and the perpetrators brought to justice”.⁴

Thank you, Mr. President.

⁴ A/HRC/39/14, recommendations 141.28 (Slovakia) and 140.85 (Switzerland).