Azerbaijan

Israeli-Russian Blogger Aleksandr Lapshin to Be Tried in Azerbaijan

28 Mar 2018

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Azerbaijan

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No state reply yet

Progress

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY ▶ Detention and imprisonment of journalists

PARTNER: CPJ, AEJ, EFJ/IFJ, Index

Aleksandr Lapshin, an Israeli-Russian travel blogger, was detained in Minsk, Belarus, on 15 December 2016, at the request from Azerbaijan and extradited to Baku on 7 February 2017.

Lapshin faces a maximum sentence of eight years in prison on charges of illegally crossing Azerbaijan's state borders during his April 2011, October 2012, and June 2016 visits to Nagorno-Karabakh, and for making "anti-state calls to the public" and criticizing Azerbaijani policies.

Currently, Alexander Lapshin is in the Kurdakhani Pre-trial Detention Centre of the Baku Investigative Prison Nr 1.


EFJ/IFJ statement: "Azerbaijan: EFJ/IFJ welcome release of Mehman Aliyev and Alexander Lapshin"

28 Mar 2018: In February 2018, Lapshin filed an application against Azerbaijan at the ECtHR.


Dispatch from press agency APA: "Alexander Lapshin left Azerbaijan"
### 20 Jul 2017: On 20 July, Aleksandr Lapshin was sentenced to 3 years in prison by the Baku Court of Grave Crimes.

- Article published by Novaya Gazeta’s news website (in Russian)

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- EFJ statement: "Russian blogger extradited to Azerbaijan"
- Report from APA: "ICRC visits blogger Alexander Lapshin"
- Report published on Mapping Media Freedom platform: "Russian blogger set to be extradited to Azerbaijan"
- CPJ alert: “Belarusian court rules to extradite blogger to Azerbaijan”
- CPJ Alert: "Blogger jailed in Belarus faces extradition to Azerbaijan"

### FOLLOW-UPS

- OSCE 11 Sep 2017 | OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media welcomes the pardon and release of Aleksandr Lapshin.

  - Tweet by Harlem Désir