



26

Apr 2018

▲ Lvl. 1

Resolved

Ukraine

Alert created on: 09 Mar 2018

Azerbaijani Journalist With Dutch citizenship Fears for His Life after Attack In Kyiv

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ Unknown

CATEGORY ⓘ ▶ Harassment and intimidation of journalists

PARTNER: Article 19, AEJ, CPJ, EFJ/IFJ, Index, RSF

Fikret Huseynli, an exiled Azerbaijani journalist who also holds Dutch citizenship, fears for his life and extradition to Azerbaijan without a court order, after escaping an attack in Kyiv by a group of individuals who tried to detain him at his home.

According to Mr Huseynli, on 5 March 2018, a group of "Ukrainian civilians accompanied by people speaking Azeri" attacked him in his apartment, knocking him on the ground and breaking his dental bridge. With the help of the landlord and an acquaintance, who threatened to call the police, Mr Huseynli managed to escape and is now in hiding in Kyiv.

Mr Huseynli who then worked for the Azadliq opposition newspaper was badly beaten in 2006 by 'unknown assailants' and fled Azerbaijan in 2008 for the Netherlands where he was granted Dutch citizenship two years ago. The Dutch embassy has been informed of the present attempt to detain him in Kyiv. On 7 October 2017, Mr Huseynli came to Ukraine on business for Turan TV, where he is currently employed. On 17 October 2017, while travelling to Dusseldorf, he was stopped at the Kyiv Boryspil airport, on the basis of an Interpol Red notice issued by the authorities of Azerbaijan who are seeking to put Mr Huseynli on trial on charges for 'illegally crossing a border' and 'fraud'.

The officials of Azerbaijan were reportedly present at the airport when he was being detained. On 27 October 2017, a Ukrainian Court freed Mr Huseynli on bail and requested the Prosecutor's Office to examine the grounds for extradition. On 13 February 2018 a Ukrainian court threw out an appeal by the Ukrainian state prosecutor against his release on bail and rejected the extradition charge against Mr Huseynli. His passport has been confiscated by the prosecutor and the journalist is obliged to stay in Ukraine until the prosecution completes its examination of the Azerbaijani request to extradite him. The court has given the Prosecutor's office till March 20 to end the investigation.

RESOLVED

RESOLVED

26 Apr 2018: On 26 April 2018, the partner organisations to the Platform declared this case to be "resolved", concluding it was no longer an active threat to media freedom, following the return of Fikret Huseynli to the Netherlands on 17 April 2018 and the decision of a Kyiv Court not to extend restrictions on his movement.

UPDATES

18 Apr 2018: On 17 April 2018, Fikret Huseynli traveled out of Ukraine for the Netherlands.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- ➔ Article published by Turan press agency: "The threat of Fikrat Huseynli's extradition to Azerbaijan remains"
- ➔ Article published by the Kyiv Post: "Azerbaijani dissident fears kidnapping after Kyiv attack"
- ➔ Article published by the Caucasian Knot: "Azeri activists report Fikret Guseinli's attempted detention in Kiev"
- ➔ Statement by the Eastern Partnership - Civil Society Forum Steering Committee on ensuring the safety of Fikret Huseynli, a journalist and Dutch citizen of Azerbaijani origin, and upholding the rule of law in Ukraine
- ➔ CPJ statement: "Journalist faces extradition from Ukraine to Azerbaijan, fears for his safety"

FOLLOW-UPS

OSCE 18 Apr 2018 | OSCE Media Freedom Representative relieved that exiled Azeri journo Fikret Huseynli is back in Netherlands.

- ➔ [Tweet by Harlem Désir](#)