

26  
Apr  
2017  
▲ Lvl. 1

State  
replied

Azerbaijan

Alert created on: 10 Aug 2015

## Murder of Azerbaijani Journalist Rasim Aliyev

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ Unknown

CATEGORY  ▶ Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists

**PARTNER: Article 19, EFJ/IFJ**

Rasim Aliyev, a 30 year old Azerbaijani journalist, died on Sunday 9 August 2015 from injuries sustained in a violent attack carried out on Saturday 8 August by several men in the Bayil neighborhood of Baku. In an interview given to Meydan TV from his hospital bed, Rasim Aliyev indicated that the attack was connected to his criticism of an Azerbaijani football player, including a post published on Facebook accusing the player of unethical behavior.

Aliyev, who had worked for the Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety (IRFS) prior to its closure due to Government pressure in 2014, had been the subject of previous threats and attacks as a result of his work. Notably, on 25 July 2015, Rasim Aliyev reported on Facebook that he had received threats on social media linked to a series of photos he had posted online showing police brutality and social discontent. Journalist Aliyev reported receiving a threat stating "You will be punished for these photos". He also filed a complaint with the police about the threat.

A picture of a CCTV camera near to Bayli market where Rasim Aliyev was beaten has been circulated by Azerbaijani civil society – indicating that there could be footage of the attack. The Azerbaijani authorities have opened a criminal case under Article 126.3 of the country's Criminal Code (intentional infliction of bodily harm causing death).

### UPDATES

**26 Apr 2017:** On April 26 2017 the remaining individuals connected to the murder of Rasim Aliyev saw their request for appeal rejected by the Court.

 **Article published by the Institute for Reporters` Freedom and Safety (IRFS): "Court Rejects Appeal by Individuals Convicted over Journalist Rasim Aliyev's Death"**

**07 Mar 2017:** On 10 February 2017, Rasim Aliyev's family filed a complaint to ECtHR.

**12 Oct 2016:** On 12 October 2016 Javid Huseynov was released from jail as a Baku Court upheld his appeal.

➔ **Article published by the Azerbaijan Press Agency (APA): "Azerbaijani footballer Javid Huseynov released from prison"**

**31 May 2016:** On 31 May 2016 football player Javid Huseynov was found guilty of failing to warn authorities of the planned attack on Rasim Aliyev and sentenced to four years in jail.

➔ **Article published by RFE/RL: "Azerbaijani Soccer Player Jailed In High-Profile Journalist Killing Case"**

**01 Apr 2016:** On 1 April 2016, a Baku court convicted 5 men on sentences from 9 to 13 years in prison finding them guilty of grievous bodily harm causing the death of Rasim Aliyev. Another person charged in the incident is still on trial.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

➔ **EFJ press release: "Azerbaijan: Journalist Rasim Aliyev dies after beating"**

➔ **Article on meydan.tv: "Journalist Rasim Aliyev dies after brutal attack"**

➔ **Article on the website ann.az (in Russian and in English)**

➔ **Article on Azadliq Radiosu website: "In Baku Journalist Dies After Severe Beating"**

#### STATE REPLIES



**28 Aug 2015** | Comments of the Government of Azerbaijan

➔ **Letter from the Permanent Representation of Azerbaijan to the Council of Europe**

#### FOLLOW-UPS

**OSCE** **12 May 2016** | OSCE Representative welcomes convictions for murder of journalist in Azerbaijan

➔ **Statement of the OSCE Representative for the Freedom of the Media**

**OSCE** **11 Aug 2015** | OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media condemns killing of journalist in Azerbaijan, calls on President Aliyev to ensure safety of journalists and free media

➔ **Statement of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media**



**10 Aug 2015** | Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland condemns attack on Azerbaijani journalist Rasim Aliyev

[!\[\]\(c507f772dba2b921f86777f01218e570\_img.jpg\) Secretary General's statement](#)