

28

Mar

2018

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Progress

Azerbaijan

n° 24/2017

Alert created on: 07 Mar 2017

## Israeli-Russian Blogger Aleksandr Lapshin to Be Tried in Azerbaijan

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY  ▶ Detention and imprisonment of journalists

### NO STATE REPLY YET

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.

### PROGRESS

**11 Sep 2017:** On 11 September 2017 Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev pardoned Aleksandr Lapshin.

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

### UPDATES

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

**14 Sep 2017:** On 14 September 2017, Alexander Lapshin left Azerbaijan.

 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

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

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