

United Nations Special Rapporteur
on the situation of human rights defenders

United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel,
inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment



**HUMAN RIGHTS HOUSE
FOUNDATION**

Oslo and Geneva, 9 December 2011

Call for an urgent action by the United Nations Special Rapporteurs after the detention and beating by airport security staff of human rights lawyer Integam Aliyev in Istanbul, Turkey

Facts

Turkish police detained Integam Aliyev on 6 December 2011, at approximately 20h30, at Istanbul Airport Atatul. Integam Aliyev was on his way back from Vilnius (Lithuania) where he participated at a Parallel Conference of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). On the day of his detention, he was transiting through Istanbul to reach Baku as final destination.

After an altercation with a Turkish custom officer, Integam Aliyev was first handcuffed and kept and detained without knowing the charges held against him. Integam Aliyev called the Human Rights House Foundation (HRHF) for an immediate assistance. Ozlem Dalkiran from the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly in Istanbul responded immediately to HRHF's alert and sent the lawyer Halil Kocabas to assist Integam Aliyev at the airport. Istanbul Bar Association was and is also actively involved with the case.

Subsequently, Integam Aliyev was informed that he was detained for allegedly insulting a custom police officer at the passport control counter at the airport and that he would be kept in prison overnight while awaiting for his court hearing set the following day, on 7 December.

On 7 December, whilst held in custody Integam Aliyev was beaten and injured, and repeatedly threatened not to speak out. First he was beaten by two men at a "control point" at the airport on 7 December at about 21h. Later, he was beaten by 7 police officers. One officer told the others: "While beating, try not to leave any traces of strike on his body."

Integam Aliyev was deported on 7 December 2011, and arrived early in the morning 8 December 2011, in Baku (Azerbaijan). He was told a criminal case has been raised against him for insulting a police officer but did not receive any written information on that matter.

Victim's description

Integam Aliyev, a human rights lawyer, holds an Azerbaijan passport and lives in Baku. He is the head of the Legal Education Society, a civil organization that seeks to achieve development of legal consciousness and legal culture in the society by means of enlightenment, and a partner NGO of the Human Rights House Azerbaijan and a member of the South Caucasus Network of Human Rights Defenders.

The Urgent action of the United Nations Special Rapporteurs is needed in order to:

- **Request from Turkish authorities to release the video recordings of the airport surveillance, since Integam Aliyev said he spoke into cameras that he was being beaten;**
- **Ensure that the Turkish authorities undertake an independent investigation into this case of violence by police and security agents of the state;**



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- **Ensure that any, if any, charges against Integam Aliyev are dropped and that he will not incur any hindering in the future in travelling in Turkey or through Turkey;**
- **Ensure that Integam Aliyev will receive an adequate compensation and rehabilitation.**

Background information on action taken the 6, 7 and 8 December

Ozlem Dalkiran from the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly in Istanbul responded immediately to HRHF's alert and sent the lawyer Halil Kocabas to assist Integam Aliyev at the airport. Istanbul Bar Association was and is also actively involved with the case.

Furthermore, HRHF sent on 7 December a letter to the Minister of Interior, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Turkish Ambassador to Norway, as well as to the Turkish Permanent Delegation to the United Nations at Geneva and informed ODIHR and the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe. The Netherlands Helsinki Committee contacted the Turkish mission to OSCE. We called upon the Turkish authorities to ensure that Integam Aliyev would be released and to ensure that no measures will be taken that would prohibit Integam Aliyev from entering or transiting through Turkey in the future.

ODIHR Focal Point contacted the Turkish mission of OSCE when they learned about the beatings. The OSCE Baku staff and several human rights defenders and journalists met Integam Aliyev at the Baku airport upon his arrival.

Information already made public: <http://www.humanrightshouse.org/Articles/17311.html>.

Human Rights House Foundation

The Human Rights House Foundation (HRHF), based in Oslo and Geneva, is the secretariat of the Human Rights House Network.

The Human Rights House Network is a forum of cooperation between established and emerging Human Rights Houses, uniting 70 NGOs in 15 countries in Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and South Caucasus, East and Horn of Africa, and Western Europe. HRHN's aim is to protect, strengthen and support human rights defenders and their organisations. The Human Rights House Azerbaijan is one of the members of the Human Rights House Network, and legally an international branch of HRHF.

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