

Minister Idris Naim Sahin
Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Turkey



**HUMAN RIGHTS HOUSE
FOUNDATION**

Copy:
H.E. Ambassador Hayati Güven
Embassy of Turkey to Norway

9 December 2011

Call for immediate and impartial investigation of detention and beating of the Azerbaijani human rights lawyer Intigam Aliyev by the immigration officer at Istanbul airport

Following its letter of 7 December 2011 to the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Turkey regarding the detention of Azerbaijani citizen Intigam Aliyev, the Human Rights House Foundation (HRHF) provides the updated information on the incident and asks the Ministry to take adequate actions.

Turkish police detained Intigam Aliyev on 6 December 2011, at approximately 20h30, at Istanbul Airport. Intigam 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 his final destination.

After an altercation with a Turkish immigration officer, Intigam Aliyev was first handcuffed and detained without informed about the charges held against him. Intigam Aliyev called 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 Intigam Aliyev at the airport. Istanbul Bar Association was and remains actively involved in the case.

Subsequently, Intigam Aliyev was informed that he was detained for allegedly insulting an 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, Intigam Aliyev was beaten and injured, and repeatedly threatened not to speak out. First he was beaten by the airport immigration officer at a "control point" at the airport on 7 December at about 21h. Later, he was beaten by the same person, where 7 men in civil clothes were present. One of them told the others: "While beating, try not to leave any traces of strike on his body." Nobody tried to hinder them from such actions.

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

The Human Rights House Foundation asks the Turkish Ministry of Interior to intervene in the case and to ensure that:

- **The Turkish authorities undertake an independent investigation into this case of violence by police and security agents of the state;**
- **Video recordings of the airport surveillance, documenting the incident, are released;**
- **All charges, if any, against Intigam Aliyev are dropped and that he will not incur any hindering in travelling to/through Turkey in the future;**
- **Intigam Aliyev receives adequate compensation and rehabilitation.**

Additional information

On 7 December 2011, HRHF sent 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 the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (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 Intigam Aliyev would be released and that no measures will be taken that would prohibit Intigam 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.

On 9 December 2011, HRHF sent an appeal to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment calling for urgent action in response to detention and beating of Intigam Aliyev.

The information and the letters can be found here:
<http://humanrightshouse.org/Articles/17311.html>

Information about Intigam Aliyev

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

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 and international branch of HRHF.

Sincerely,



Maria Dahle
Executive Director
Human Rights House Foundation