

THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN AZERBAIJAN

Wednesday 16 September • 17:00-18:00 • Palais des Nations • Room XXV

In **Azerbaijan**, space for independent civil society has disappeared, following a crackdown since the presidential election in October 2013. Ahead of the parliamentary elections in November 2015, all leading civil society actors are either in prison or have fled the country.

On 8 September 2015, the UN High Commissioner condemned the ongoing crackdown on civil society and independent voices in Azerbaijan.

On 20 August 2015, six UN Special Rapporteurs issued a joint statement condemning the conviction of human rights defenders as "manifestly politically motivated" in a trial that "fell short of international norms and standards." On 11 September 2015, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) cancelled its election monitoring in the country due to restrictions imposed by the Azerbaijani authorities.

We call upon the Human Rights Council to take concrete steps to address the deteriorating situation in Azerbaijan. We call upon Azerbaijan to put an end to the unprecedented repression against civil society and to immediately and unconditionally release and rehabilitate the civil and political rights of all political prisoners.

SPEAKERS

DINARA YUNUS

Institute for Peace and Democracy
Daughter of political prisoners **Leyla Yunus** and **Arif Yunus**

SERGHEI OSTAF

Resource Centre for Human Rights Moldova
Observer of many of the hearings this summer of various human rights defenders imprisoned in Azerbaijan

Moderation: FLORIAN IRMINGER

Human Rights House Foundation

English / Russian translation
Refreshments will be provided

Human Rights House Network
Human Rights Watch
CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation
Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (International Federation of Human Rights and World Organisation against Torture)