

AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASININ
ATƏT YANINDA
DAİMİ NÜMAYƏNDƏLİYİ



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
TO THE OSCE

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**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1120th Meeting of the Permanent Council,
24 November 2016**

in response to statements by delegations of the USA and EU

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan takes note of the statements of the Delegation of United States, European Union and aligned countries. The content of the statements will be communicated to the Capital.

We have commented on this issue at previous meetings of the Permanent Council and therefore have nothing to add.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

992nd meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council March 27, 2014

in response to EU and US delegations on the case of I.Mammadov and T.Yagublu

Mr. Chairperson,

We took note of the statements made by the European Union and aligned countries: the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Iceland, Albania and Norway, as well as the Delegation of the United States and their content will be duly communicated to our capital.

I would like to recall what happened in Ismayilly and what steps the authorities had taken.

The Investigation Department for the Grave Crimes of the General Prosecutor's Office has launched the investigation on the events that took place on January 23-24, 2013 in Ismayilly where a group of people violated public order and used force against local authorities. In accordance with the information gathered during the investigation General Prosecutor's Office revealed that the co-chairman of REAL Movement Ilgar Mammadov arrived in Ismayilly on January 24, 2013 where he together with the Deputy Chairman of Musavat Party Tofiq Yagublu and others urged the residents of the region to obstruct the police, blocked the traffic, violated public order and this resulted in violating of public order and paralyzing normal activity of the city. It caused significant damages to the state and private property.

The investigation identified that on the initial stage the events that took place in the city of Ismailly, were primarily of a domestic nature further being escalated to a mass disorder by the political figures interested in destabilizing internal situation in Azerbaijan.

52 persons, who seriously violated the public order, were detained. 23 of them were sentenced to administrative arrest, 12 punished and 12 released after warning. The detained and arrested persons were explained their rights and each of them were provided by lawyers following their arrests.

On March 17, 2014 the Court in Sheki sentenced Mr. Ilgar Mammadov and Mr. Tofiq Yagublu accordingly to seven and five years in prison. Eight other defendants received from two to eight years prison terms.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Azerbaijani authorities have established all necessary legal bases for independent administration of justice and transparent judicial processes. We are working with the OSCE and other international organizations to advance democratic transformation in our country, consolidate independent and prosperous Azerbaijani nation and contribute to the strengthening of peace and security in the entire South Caucasus region and beyond.

Azerbaijani nation has its own path of democratic development which is fully in line with the commitments undertaken within the OSCE and other international organizations. This path could serve as an example of how a young democracy could consolidate on its own the ideals of freedom and independence, take full command over its boosting economy and benefit from advancing values of humanity and sustainable development.

The expression of citizens' protests within the framework determined by law is a principle adopted by all European countries. Taking adequate measures against actions aimed at fuelling civil unrest does not contradict to the principles of the rule law in progressive societies.

Therefore we regret that the EU officials' statements distorted the situation in our country and made unfair and nonobjective assessments of the event.

As far as the statement of the Delegation of United States is concerned, we do not share the disappointment over judicial process which has been carried out transparently, objectively and fairly. It has been frequently stressed by the Delegation of Azerbaijan here in Vienna, as well as by our officials in Washington and in Baku that the information on the case of Mr. Ilgar Mammadov and Mr. Tofiq Yagublu available at the disposal of the US Government is not objective, based on one sided interpretation of events and does not take into account many elements disclosed during the trial process.

Therefore, we encourage the European Union and aligned countries and the Government of the United States to reconsider their respective position on the case of Mr. Ilgar Mammadov and Mr. Tofiq Yagublu.

As for the OSCE field presence in Azerbaijan, this issue has been resolved through a relevant Permanent Council decisions by all 57 OSCE participating States including the Delegation of the United States back in July in 2013. We do not have plans to engage Project Coordinator in activities preferred by one delegation. Project Coordinator in Baku has its mandate and will act based on the needs and priorities of the host country and in accordance with its mandate.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.