

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

AZERBAIJAN: APPEAL CASES

15 March 2001¹; AI Index: EUR 55/001/2001; public

Gulhar Pashayeva: 61-year-old woman allegedly beaten by police

The 61-year-old pensioner and mother of two, Gulhar Pashayeva, took part in post-election demonstrations in the city of Sheki in the north of Azerbaijan at which mainly social and economical concerns were raised. Gulhar Pashayeva was allegedly beaten by police officers after being taken to a police station in the city on 20 November 2000. The police reportedly demanded that she admit to taking part in the meeting, and name others who had done so. She refused and described how three officers had severely beaten her and threatened to rape her with a truncheon. When she went to the hospital for medical aid, employees at the Central Hospital in Sheki were said to have been too afraid of the police to render medical assistance to her. Later, the procuracy reportedly declined a request for a medical examination by the state forensic service.

Photo: Gulhar Pashayeva; © Private
(the photo shows bruises which reportedly resulted from police ill-treatment)

Letters on behalf of Gulhar Pashayeva

Please send politely worded letters in English, Russian, Azeri or your own language,

! expressing concern at reports that police officers at the police station in the city of Sheki severely beat Gulhar Pashayeva and threatened to rape her with a truncheon;

! expressing concern at allegations that the procuracy had declined to request a medical examination from forensic experts;

! urging the authorities to open a prompt and impartial investigation into the above mentioned allegations with the results made public and those found responsible brought to justice. *To stress your point you can mention that such conduct would be in line with Azerbaijan's commitment under the Convention against Torture (CAT; Articles 12, 13, 16) and with the commitment to "prosecute members of the law-enforcement bodies who have infringed human rights (particularly the prohibition of torture) in the course of their duties" (Opinion No. 222 (2000), iv. c) that Azerbaijan has to honour as a member of the Council of Europe.*

¹ Please use this "Appeal Case" sheet as the basis for your letter-writing until further notice.

