

URGENT ACTION

67-YEAR-OLD PRISONER DANGEROUSLY ILL

A 67-year-old language expert, serving a 10-year prison sentence apparently in connection with his promotion of the Talysh language and culture in Azerbaijan, is dangerously ill. According to his friends, he is not receiving the treatment he needs for a range of serious medical problems.

Novruzali Mammadov was found guilty of treason after a trial that was reportedly unfair in June 2008. He was sent to Penal Colony No 15 in Azerbaijan. According to his friends, in June 2009 the doctor at the prison diagnosed Novruzali Mammadov with a number of medical conditions including a cataract, a prostate tumour, and thyroid problems. The doctor recommended that Novruzali Mammadov have three separate operations to relieve his conditions.

On 28 July, Novruzali Mammadov was transferred to a central hospital for the penitentiary system run by the Ministry of Justice. Novruzali Mammadov's friends say that his health has deteriorated since he arrived at the hospital: he is in pain, unable to walk unaided, move his arms, and has difficulty breathing and speaking. He told his family and lawyer when they visited him that hospital staff did not assist patients with eating and personal care, and the sanitary conditions were "awful". According to his friends, Novruzali Mammadov has not been given any treatment or pain relief by hospital staff, as they said they need to carry out tests before treating him. Only in the afternoon of 31 July, was Novruzali Mammadov's wife allowed to pass on some painkillers she had bought for him; however, she was not allowed to see him on that day though she had been able to visit him in earlier in the week.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Azeri, Russian, Turkish or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities immediately to ensure that Novruzali Mammadov is receiving appropriate medical treatment;
- Expressing concern that Novruzali Mamadov's current hospital has apparently not provided him with appropriate medical treatment and care;
- Calling on the authorities to ensure that he should be transferred to a civilian hospital if no other hospital within the penitentiary system can meet his medical needs;
- Calling for Novruzali Mammadov to be retried in proceedings that are in accordance with international fair trial standards.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 11 SEPTEMBER 2009 TO:

President Ilham Aliyev
Office of the President
19 Istiqlaiyyat St.
AZ1066 Baku
Azerbaijan

Salutation: Your Excellency

Fax: (+99412) 492 35 43, 492 06 25

Email: president@president.az
office@apparat.gov.az

Fikrət Məmmədov
Minister of Justice
1, İnşaatçylar prospect
Baku AZ1065
AZERBAIJAN

Salutation: Your Excellency

Fax : (+994 12) 430 09 81

E-mail: contact@justice.gov.az;
international@justice.gov.az

And copies to:

Diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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