

# LIST OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

## Union for the Freedom for Political Prisoners of Azerbaijan

On 18 March 2024

288 persons

After former KGB general Heydar Aliyev came to power in 1993, in Azerbaijan, political repressions began in the country. In 2003, he was replaced by his son Ilham Aliyev, and the repressions against dissidents became systematic. Azerbaijani human rights defenders regularly compile the list of “prisoners of conscience” and political prisoners.

Current list, on 18 March 2024, includes all arrested and convicted on political motives, about whom it was possible to collect detailed information.

### **This list consists of 8 groups and includes 288 people:**

- Group № 1 Journalists and Bloggers – 20 persons
- Group № 2 Human Rights Defenders – 2 persons
- Group № 3 Members of Opposition Parties and Public Organisations – 22 persons
- Group № 4 Political emigrants deported from Germany – 5 persons
- Group № 5 Peaceful Believers – 208 persons
- Group № 6 Convicted in Tartar case - 7 persons
- Group № 7 Convicted in Ganja case - 13 persons
- Group № 8 Life Term Sentenced – 11 persons

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Work method: given list is compiled in accordance with a norm that defines the concept of “political prisoner” expounded in corresponding Resolution # 1900, adopted at the Parliamentary Assembly Session of the Council of Europe (PACE) in October 2012.

## GROUP № 1

### JOURNALISTS AND BLOGGERS – 20 persons

1. **Polad Aslanov** - editor-in-chief of [www.xeberman.com](http://www.xeberman.com) and [www.press-az.com](http://www.press-az.com) websites



**Arrested:** 12 June 2019

**Charge:** Article 274 (*Treason to the state*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 16 November 2020, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 16 years in prison

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center of the State Security Service

#### **Conclusion:**

Polad Aslanov pleaded not guilty and linked the arrest to his journalistic activities, since in his articles he wrote and mentioned the names of the Ministry of National Security officers (now the State Security Service) who take bribes from Azerbaijani pilgrims traveling to holy places when they cross the border.

2. **Osman Nariman oglu Rzayev** – editor-in-chief of the <https://demokratik.az> website



**Arrested:** 5 July 2022

**Charge:** Article 182.2.2 (*Extortion or requirement to transfer another's property or right on property or commitment of other actions committed repeatedly*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 7 July 2022, the Goygol District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Osman Narimanoglu Rzayev in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months.

On 6 November 2022 the pre-trial detention was extended by 3 months. On 1 February 2023 the criminal case was sent to the judge of the Ganja Court for Serious Crimes Roman Akbarli. Yet, the litigation had been dragging on and then, on 23 July 2023, Osman Narimanoglu Rzayev announced a hunger strike demanding his release.

**Sentence:** On 25 January 2024, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 6 years and 6 months in prison

**Judge:** Roman Alakbarli

***Conclusion:***

On 5 July 2022, Osman Narimanoglu Rzayev was arrested on charges of extorting money from the officials of the Land Reclamation Department and Physicians of Goranboy and Goygol districts. At the end of 2018, Osman Rzayev filed a lawsuit in the Goygol Court, in which he accused the Head of the Land Reclamation of Goygol district, Ilqar Maharramov, in slander and blackmailing.

Following his arrest, the journalist claimed that the accusations had been false and that he had been slandered by those he had published revelatory material on the corruption about. Meanwhile, Ilqar Hajizada, the Goygol District Prosecutor, had taken the side of the corruptionists.

Osman Rzayev claims that the prosecution neither has evidence of extortion nor there is any evidence at all.

Osman Rzayev, while being in the detention center, passed a message through his relatives in which he reported the moral torture he had been subjected to by the investigative and prosecutorial authorities.

According to the Article 91 of the Criminal Code of Azerbaijan Republic, an individual may request a transfer of his/her case to a public trial hearing whilst being under investigation. Osman Rzayev is demanding a public trial. He believes that along with the unlawful prolongation of the investigation, he is being subjected to moral torture.

On 7 December 2023 his wife Arzu Rzayeva told:

«The last meeting was held on 7 September, three months ago. Then the court decided to send requests to mobile operators in order to provide billing for Osman's telephone conversations. By law, court requests must be secured within 30 days. The answers from the operators have come, but the meetings are not being held».

According to her, the meeting scheduled for December 7 was again postponed indefinitely on the pretext that "the trial of the Armenian military was held in the Ganja Court for Serious Crimes."

«The case against the Armenian military was considered by another panel of judges. It was an excuse to postpone the trial of Osman again» A.Rzayeva said.

The editor's wife sees the prolongation of the trial as an «order» to keep Narimanoglu in custody as «long as possible», exerting "moral pressure" on him. According to her, there is no reliable evidence of her husband's guilt and he is being prosecuted on the basis of false witness testimony.

### **3. Aslan Qurbanov – blogger**



**Arrested:** 14 July 2020

**Charge:** Article 281.2 (*Calls against the state*) and 283.1 (*Incitement of national, religious, social discord*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 15 April 2021, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 7 years in prison

**Conclusion:**

Blogger Aslan Qurbanov published a post on Facebook with statements about the arrest of an activist of the *Popular Front of Azerbaijan Party* Pasha Umudov and former Defense Minister Rahim Gaziyeu, demanding their release. Aslan Qurbanov suffers from a serious neurological disease and, at the request of the defense, was transferred from the Detention Centre of the State Security Service to the Medical Institution of the Penitentiary Service.

**4. Rashad Ramazanov - blogger**



**Date of arrest:** 20 May 2022

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 21 May 2022, the Baku City Sabunchi District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Rashad Ramazanov in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months.

In September 2022 and January 2023, the Baku City Sabunchi District Court extended the terms of imprisonment each time for another 4 months.

**Sentence:** On 2 February 2024, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 5 years and 4 months in prison

**Judge:** Azer Taqiyev

**Conclusion:**

Earlier, Rashad Ramazanov was arrested twice for his political views. He was released in 2019 by Presidential pardon in March 2019.

On 20 May 2022, at about 4 pm he was detained and brought to the 14th Police Station of the Sabunchi District Police Department of Baku. Later, officers of this police station reported that Rashad Ramazanov was detained by the Main Directorate for Combating Drug of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. After the arrest, he was taken to the Binagadi District Police Department.

Rashad Ramazanov denied all the accusations against him.

In an interview given to the journalists, Elchin Sadiqov, a lawyer, said that Rashad Ramazanov had stated before the Court that he had been subjected to torture immediately after his detention. Even the expertise acknowledged that the marks of violence on his body coincided in time with the period of his detention. And Sadiqov added,

"Ramazanov's guilt was not proven. The Court should have acquitted him but instead issued a verdict of conviction".

## 5. Bakhtiyar Hajiyev – blogger and civil activist



**Date of arrest:** 9 December 2022

**Charge:** Articles 221.1 (*Hooliganism*) and 289.1 (*Disrespect to court*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Bakhtiyar Hajiyev was detained on 9 December 2022 on charges of hooliganism and contempt of court. On the same day, the Baku City Khatai District Court arrested him for 1 month and 20 days. On 15 December 2022, Hajiyev went on a hunger strike demanding his release. On 28 December he ended his hunger strike after persistent calls from the public and family members.

On 9 January 2023, the Court of Appeal refused his release and he resumed his hunger strike. On 21 January, the Baku City Khatai District Court extended the term of his arrest for a month, and on 23 February for another two months until 28 April 2023.

On 28 February 2023, on the 51st day of the hunger strike, Hajiyev stopped his hunger strike.

On 22 July 2023, the Baku City Khatai District Court, based on the petition of the investigating authority, extended the period of pre-trial detention public activist Bakhtiyar Hajiyev for another 2 months 10 days until 8 October 2023.

On 3 October, 2023, the Baku City Khatai District Court extended the term of arrest of public activist Bakhtiyar Hajiyev for another three months. The defense considered this decision unlawful. According to lawyers, now the period of pre-trial arrest of B. Hajiyev will be 13 months, and the investigation period will be 16 months, which does not correspond to the gravity of the charges against him. The defense will appeal.

On 13 November 2023, Aqil Lahij, B.Hajiyev's lawyer, informed the journalists that his client's investigation case had been completed and would soon be sent to the Baku Court of Serious Crimes. The lawyer also pointed out that if initially charges were brought against Bakhtiyar Hajiyev under 2 Articles, but by now the investigation had added another 6; thus, the following Articles of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic are brought against Bakhtiyar Hajiyev: 192.1 (*Implementation of business activity without registration (tax registration) in the order provided by the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan*), 193-1.3.2 (*Legalization of money or other property obtained by crime, committed in large amount*), 206.1 (*Smuggling, is moving large amount through customs border of the Republic of Azerbaijan of goods or other subjects*), 213.1. (*Evasion from payment of taxes in significant amount*), 221.2.2 (*Hooliganism committed with resistance to representative of the authority, acting as on protection of a social order or stopping infringement of a social order or with resistance to other person*), 289.1 (*Disrespect to court, insult of participants of proceeding*), 320.1 (*Fake of certificate or other official document giving the rights or releasing from duties, with a view of its use or selling of such document, as well as manufacturing in same purposes or selling of counterfeit state awards of the Azerbaijan Republic, stamps, seals, forms*) and 320.2 (*Use of obviously counterfeit documents*).

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**Conclusion:**

On 9 December 2022, the day before the International Human Rights Day, Bakhtiyar Hajiyev was arrested on charges of hooliganism and disrespect for court. On the same day, the Khatai District Court arrested him for 1 month and 20 days.

He was abducted twice by law enforcement agencies and subjected to physical and psychological pressure by them. B. Hajiyev criticized the Ministry of Internal Affairs and personally the minister Vilayat Eyvazov. Mr. Hajiyev, speaking in court, rejected the charges against him and said that he was being persecuted for his political activities, including for criticizing the government at international forums.

## 6. Jamil Mammadli – journalist and blogger



**Date of arrest:** 24 August 2023

**Charge:** Articles 178.2.4 (*Swindle, that is maintaining another persons property or buying another persons property by a deceit or breach of confidence, committed with causing damage in the significant size*), 182.2.1 (*Extortion committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons*), 182.2.2 (*Extortion committed repeatedly*) and 221.2.2 (*Hooliganism committed with resistance to representative of the authority, acting as on protection of a social order or stopping infringement of a social order or with resistance to other person*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 24 August 2023, the Sumgayit Court for Serious Crimes presided by the Judge Fahmin Humbatov sentenced Jamil Mammadli to a preventive measure in the form of arrest until the end of the judicial investigation. He was taken into custody in the courtroom.

### **Conclusion:**

Jamil Mammadli had worked as a regional correspondent for the *Azadliq* radio (the Azerbaijani branch of Radio "Liberty") since 2010 until its Baku bureau was shut down in December 2014. Afterwards, he broadcast on his YouTube channel the programmes dedicated to social problems of the northern Azerbaijanis, and in recent years he started investigating the illegal and corrupt activities of the Head of the Executive Power of the Azerbaijani Quba district. As a result, the local law enforcement bodies often initiated proceedings against him.

On 17 January 2023, Jamil Mammadli appeared as a suspect in a criminal case involving the acts of hooliganism. The occasion was an incident that took place on 15 December 2022, when the car in which the blogger was travelling got into the traffic accident. The blogger said that the driver of the car that hit his tried to provoke a fight, while the police officers who were watching the conflict did not interfere and even videotaped the incident and the fight! In the morning of 18 January, Jamil Mammadli was detained and accused of assaulting the participant of the road accident, Jeyhun Aghabalaev, and Jeyhun's mother, but he did not plead guilty. On the same day, the police released Jamil Mammadli having prohibited him to leave the Khachmaz district for the period of investigation. The blogger considered the charges of hooliganism and resisting the law enforcement officers unfounded. However, the journalist continued to cover the activities of the local district Head. Then, on 20 August 2023, at the next trial hearing, the Sumgayit Court for Serious Crimes concurred with the arguments of the prosecution that the accused, while at large,



influenced the investigation, therefore, the Court granted the prosecution's motion and Jamil Mammadli was taken into custody right in the courtroom.

The accused, Jamil Mammadli, categorically refuted all the charges, pointing out that the real reason of his detention was indeed his journalistic activities. Fariz Namazly, his lawyer, said that the charges of hooliganism, extortion and fraud brought against Jamil Mammadli had been unsubstantiated and that his client's arrest was unfounded.

## 7. Ulvi Fakhraddin oglu Hasanli - director of *Abzas Media*, an online Azerbaijani media outlet



**Date of arrest:** 20 November 2023

**Charge:** Article 206.3.2 (*Smuggling, is moving large amount through customs border of the Republic of Azerbaijan of goods or other subjects, committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 21 November 2023, the Baku City Khatai District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Ulvi Hasanli in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months. On 14 March 2024, the Baku City Khatai District Court extended Ulvi Hasanli's pre-trial detention for another 3 months

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

### ***Conclusion:***

Ulvi Hasanli, who was an activist of *NIDA* Civic Union in the late 2010s, has faced repeated harassment from the government. In 2021, he was briefly detained over his work as an investigative journalist. In 2022, he was one of three journalists who appealed against legislation obliging all media outlets to register with the state media registry under the threat of closure. He also reported on the protests in Soyudlu village in June 2023, during which Azerbaijani police detained, beat, threatened, or obstructed the work of at least six journalists, including Hasanli.

On 20 November 2023, Ulvi Hasanli was supposed to take an early morning flight abroad, however he did not reach the airport. For a long time his whereabouts had remained unknown, until his lawyer announces that Ulvi Hasanli had been detained by the police on his way to the airport and brought to the Baku City General Police Department. After that, he was taken to the office of *Abzas Media*, where the access to journalists were forbidden and where in the course of personal search the police claimed to have found 40 000 euros. In the meantime U.Hasanli managed to tell the journalists that he had been subjected to tortures in the Baku City General Police Department,

"I was beaten even with feet, they demanded to explain why we wrote about corruption and did not write about Karabakh".

He also denied that the 40,000 euros allegedly found in the editorial office belonged either to him or *Abzas Media* openly stating that it had all been planted by the police.

The arrest of Ulvi Hasanli and other *Abzas Media* employees sparked outrage in Azerbaijani society. There was also a reaction abroad, with statements from the organizations such as Amnesty International, Committee to Protect Journalists, International Press Center, Freedom Now, as well as from the EU and US.

**8. Sevinj Vaqifqizi Abbasova** – editor-in-chief of *Abzas Media*, an online Azerbaijani media outlet



**Date of arrest:** 21 November 2023

**Charge:** Article 206.3.2 (*Smuggling, is moving large amount through customs border of the Republic of Azerbaijan of goods or other subjects, committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 21 November 2023, the Baku City Khatai District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Sevinj Vaqifqizi Abbasova in the form of arrest for a period of 3 months and 29 days. On 14 March 2024, the Baku City Khatai District Court extended Sevinj Vaqifqizi's pre-trial detention for another 2 months and 29 days

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

***Conclusion:***

Sevinj Vaqifqizi, a well-known journalist in Azerbaijan, has recently been investigating the corruption on the part of high-ranking Azerbaijani officials, therefore she had been repeatedly subjected to persecution. When she was at Ankara airport waiting for her flight to Baku, her friends made a video that showed her talking with someone, who urged her not to return to Azerbaijan.

“I couldn’t bear to live abroad, while Ulvi (Hasanli) is in jail. It would be like living in jail for me. I would rather die in Azerbaijan, instead of having a heart attack in Paris,” she said. And indeed, according to activists who were on the same flight with Sevinj Vaqifqizi, she was detained immediately upon arrival in Baku airport. Police didn’t allow Sevinj Vaqifqizi to pass passport control, taking her directly to the Baku City General Police Department. Also, her house was searched. According to her lawyer, Elchin Sadiyov, there were no four any illegal items during the search. Sevinj Vaqifqizi believes that the persecution is related to her journalistic activities and work at the media.

**9. Mohammad Shamil oglu Kekalov** - consultant of *Abzas Media*, an online Azerbaijani media outlet





**Date of arrest:** 20 November 2023

**Charge:** Article 206.3.2 (*Smuggling, is moving large amount through customs border of the Republic of Azerbaijan of goods or other subjects, committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 23 November 2023, the Baku City Khatai District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Mohammad Kekalov in the form of arrest for a period of 3 months and 27 days. On 15 March 2024, the Baku City Khatai District Court extended Mohammad Kekalov's pre-trial detention for another 3 months

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**Conclusion:**

Mohammad Kekalov, a youth activist, provided a consulting service for the Abzas Media on a number of projects aimed at supporting minorities and the people with disabilities, as well as he was also involved in translation service. On the morning of 20 November 2023, a group of people in civilian clothes, not showing any documents, entered M. Kekalov's house and forcibly took him away with them, also his personal computer and cell phone were taken. His mother tried unsuccessfully to prevent that lawlessness. Then she turned to and engaged a lawyer, Rovshana Rahimli, signed a contract on behalf of their family and tried to obtain information on Mohammad Kekalov's whereabouts. However, in the Baku City General Police Department they swore that they had no idea where M.Kekalov was. Rovshana Rahimli received the same kind of answer from the Azerbaijani Ombudsman.

Only on 22 November, the Baku City General Police Department confirmed that M.Kekalov had been still in their custody, but refused to provide information about his place of detention or the charges against him. They just informed that M.Kekalov had been arrested in connection with the arrested leaders of the Internet publication Abzas Media and that a state-appointed lawyer, Sanan Asadov, had been appointed to take his case. Only on the fourth day of Kekalov's detention, the hired by his family lawyer, Rovshana Rahimli, got a permission to meet with her client in the presence of an investigator; but Mr Kekalov denied to accept her services saying that he had a state-appointed lawyer. In his turn, the investigator didn't allow Rovshana Rahimli to talk privately to M. Kekalov in order to explain to him his rights to have two lawyers and at the same time to find out the reason for such an unexpected refusal from the lawyer hired by the family.

**10. Nargiz Absalamova** – journalist of *Abzas Media*, an online Azerbaijani media outlet



**Date of arrest:** 30 November 2023

**Charge:** Article 206.3.2 (*Smuggling, is moving large amount through customs border of the Republic of Azerbaijan of goods or other subjects, committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 30 November 2023, Nargiz Absalamova was summoned to the Baku City General Police Department, where, following an interrogation, she was brought up on the same charges as the management of the Internet publication Abzas Media, and then she was detained.

On 1 December 2023, the Baku City Khatai District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Nargiz Absalamova in the form of arrest for a period of 3 months and 27 days.

On 26 December 2023, the Baku City Khatai District Court considered a petition for the transfer of Nargiz Absalamova under house arrest. According to the lawyer Shahla Humbatova,

"Nargiz Absalamova spoke in court. She said that the accusation brought against her is absolutely unjustified and she is being persecuted because of her professional journalistic activities. She does not consider herself guilty".

Besides, Absalamova, as well as other defendants in the case of Abzas Media, are not allowed to see and talk on the phone with their loved ones and the complaint about this will be considered in the coming days.

"She is also not allowed to call a lawyer. In this regard, I will also file a complaint," the lawyer noted.

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

#### 11. Aziz Orujev – director of the Internet TV *Kanal 13* (Channel 13) online video channel



**Date of arrest:** 27 November 2023

**Charge:** Article 188.2 (*Unauthorized implementation of construction and installation work on the land without the legal right of ownership, use or lease*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 28 November 2023, the Baku City Sabayil District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Aziz Orujev in the form of arrest for a period of 3 months. On 21 February 2024, the Baku City Sabayil District Court extended the detention by one more month

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

#### **Conclusion:**

The Head of the independent Internet TV channel Kanal 13, a well-known journalist in Azerbaijan, Aziz Orujev has been regularly subjected to pressure on the part of the authorities in recent years. After all, his channel has constantly raised issues of human rights violations, expressed concerns about the violations of human rights, protests, and trials of those criticising the Azerbaijani authorities.

On 15 December 2017, he was sentenced on charges of illegal entrepreneurship for a period of six-year-imprisonment. The journalist did not plead guilty and appealed against the verdict. On 4 April 2018, the Supreme Court replaced his actual term of imprisonment with a three-year conditional sentence and released him at the court room the same day.

On 27 November 2023, in the evening, 8 masked policemen from the Baku City Sabayil District Police Department searched the journalist's residence as well as the office of Kanal 13. Orujev is accused of unauthorised house construction in Baku City Sabayil district. According to his lawyer, Bahruz Bayramov, Aziz Orujev categorically denied the accusation and attributed the police actions to his professional journalistic activities.

Lamiya Orujeva, the journalist's wife, said that the police confiscated two his laptops, a phone he did not use and the documents related to the journalist's previous arrest.

The Azerbaijani civil society representatives do not trust the authorities' official version and believe that this is just a pretext, after which the investigation will add new accusations. Alaskar Mammadli, a mass media expert and member of the Civil Society Platform, drew the public attention to the manner in which Orujev had been detained and his place of residence searched, questioning the true purpose of his detention,

"The Head of Kanal 13 with 1 600 000 subscribers on YouTube was detained as a terrorist on charges of 'unauthorised construction'.

## 12. Teymur Karimov – head of the *Kanal 11* YouTube channel



**Date of arrest:** 11 December 2023

**Charge:** Articles 182.2.2 (*Extortion committed repeatedly*) and 182.2.4 (*Extortion committed with causing damage to a victim in significant size*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 12 December 2023, the Baku City Narimanov District Court issued an order: to satisfy the investigator's petition on arrest and issue a preventive measure against Teymur Karimov in the form of detention for a period of 4 months.

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

### ***Conclusion:***

Relatives and colleagues of the head of the Kanal 11 YouTube channel Teymur Karimov reported his disappearance. Since noon on 11 December 2023, he has stopped communicating, calls to his mobile phone are not being received, and the location of the reporter is unknown. In a statement issued late in the evening of 11 December, the Kanal 11 team notes that after Karimov prepared a critical video report about the head of the Dashkasan District, Ahad Abiyev, in July of this year, he began to be persecuted.

Teymur Karimov was repeatedly called to the police under various pretexts; he received calls demanding not to disseminate the videos he had filmed.

Teymur Karimov was also subjected to pressure and threats in connection with a video report about the use of force by police against veterans of the Karabakh war and their protest action. The authors of the statement believe that Teymur Karimov is "another victim of the repressive machine launched on the eve of the early presidential elections."

T.Karimov denies the charges and has linked the criminal case to his journalistic work. According to the lawyer Neimat Karimli, Teymur Karimov reported that he was beaten by the police. In connection with the beating, the defense will contact the prosecutor's office.

According to the official press statement of the Azerbaijani Interior Ministry, Teymur Karimov had been detained as a suspect on the basis of complaints filed by some citizens.

### 13. Ibrahim Humbat oglu Humbatov - head of [Azerinfo.az](http://Azerinfo.az) website



**Date of arrest:** 11 December 2023

**Charge:** Article 182 (*Extortion*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 11 December 2023, the Baku City Narimanov District Court issued an order: to satisfy the investigator's petition on arrest and issue a preventive measure against Ibrahim Humbatov in the form of detention for a period of 4 months.

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

#### ***Conclusion:***

The Interior Ministry's press service reports that Humbatov was detained on 11 December on the basis of citizens' appeals.

"The head of the website is accused of publishing materials discrediting individuals and extorting money from them for non-replication of kompromat. A measure of restraint in the form of arrest for four months has been chosen against him."

However, the human rights activists and representatives of the country civil society have a different point of view and claim that [Azerinfo.az](http://Azerinfo.az) website has been publishing the information containing the accusations of corruption and violations of the Law against many officials.

### 14. Arshad Ibrahimov - head of [Dunyaninsesi.az](http://Dunyaninsesi.az) website



**Date of arrest:** 11 December 2023

**Charge:** Article 182.2.2 (*Extortion committed repeatedly*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 11 December 2023, the Baku City Narimanov District Court issued an order: to satisfy the investigator's petition on arrest and issue a preventive measure against Arshad Ibrahimov in the form of detention for a period of 4 months.

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

#### ***Conclusion:***

However, Tural Ibrahimov, a brother of the arrested journalist, declared to journalists that Arshad Ibrahimov has been detained following a complaint by one of the Ganja medical facility managers, who was "forced" to testify that the journalist had received a bribe of 200 manat in 2021 and then

again extorted money by threatening him. Tural Ibrahimov further stated that the "real reason" for his brother's arrest was his critique aimed at the police authorities.

**15. Hafiz Babaly** – head of the economic department of *Turan* News Agency and investigative journalist



**Date of arrest:** 13 December 2023

**Charge:** Article 206.3.2 (*Smuggling, is moving large amount through customs border of the Republic of Azerbaijan of goods or other subjects, committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 14 December 2023, the Baku City Khatai District Court issued an order: to satisfy the investigator's petition on arrest and issue a preventive measure against Hafiz Babaly in the form of detention for a period of 3 months.

On 7 March 2024, the Baku City Khatai District Court extended the pre-trial detention of Hafiz Babaly for another three months. As his lawyer Rasul Jafarov stated,

"We filed a petition to place Babaly under a house arrest. We also asked to take into account Babaly's medical condition. He has a disability group 3 since a vision of one eye is limited to 30 per cent. The vision of the other eye is also very poor. However, the Court did not satisfy our petition and prolonged the arrest until 13 June".

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**Conclusion:**

Hafiz Babaly is the author of numerous studies on the corruption of high-ranking officials in Azerbaijan. He writes for free and independent media like the Turan News Agency, Radio Liberty, Meydan TV, the new media channel ASTNA and the anti-corruption portal Open Azerbaijan. He became one of the laureates of the 2019 Free Media Award, awarded by the Norwegian Fritt Ord Foundation and the German ZEIT Foundation. - <https://frittord.no/nb/priser/free-media-awards/hafiz-babali-azerbajjan>

On 28 November 2023, Hafiz Babaly was questioned in the Baku City Police Department about the activities of the internet publication Abzas Media. After it all his bank accounts were blocked, even his disability pension account.

Babaly's family reported that on 13 December an investigator of the Baku City Police Department and eight police officers searched his house.

"Hafiz was stopped by the police on his way to work and handcuffed. Then they searched our house for more than two hours. They searched everywhere. They even checked the children's books. They took away Hafiz's computer, phone and a number of documents related to his activities," a relative of the journalist told Voice of America.



He was without a lawyer during the detention and search. After the beginning of the investigation, Hafiz Babaly denied all the charges brought against him stating that he had been persecuted due to his journalistic investigations.

**16. Shamo Eminov** – journalist of the Internet TV *Kanal 13* (Channel 13) online video channel



**Date of arrest:** 22 December 2023

**Charge:** Article 206.3.2 (*Smuggling, is moving large amount through customs border of the Republic of Azerbaijan of goods or other subjects, committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 14 December 2023, the Baku City Khatai District Court issued an order: to satisfy the investigator's petition on arrest and issue a preventive measure against Hafiz Babaly in the form of detention for a period of 3 months.

On 26 December 2023, Shamo Eminov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**Conclusion:**

Journalist Shamo Eminov, who co-operated with Internet TV Kanal 13.

According to his wife Durdana Eminova, Shamo Eminov was detained on 22 December:

"On 22 December in the morning, Shamo left the house to go for an interview. Later, I left the house and went to visit my daughter. In the evening, I received a call from the police that they had my husband and asked me to bring his diploma. When I returned home to get my diploma, I saw that everything in the flat was scattered and my husband's laptop was missing. It turned out that a search had been conducted."

She said that for five days she could not get any information about her husband. It was only on 26 December 2023 that Shamo Eminov called his spouse for 2-3 minutes and informed her that he had been accused of "smuggling" and the Court had chosen a measure of restraint against him in the form of arrest for a period of 3 months and 5 days. In other words, neither his spouse nor anyone else knew about the arrest and trial against Shamo Eminov.

**17. Elnara Qasimova** – journalist of *Abzas Media*, an online Azerbaijani media outlet



**Date of arrest:** 13 January 2024



**Charge:** Article 206.3.2 (*Smuggling, is moving large amount through customs border of the Republic of Azerbaijan of goods or other subjects, committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 15 January 2024, the Baku City Khatai District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Elnara Qasimova in the form of arrest for a period of 2 months and 17 days. On 7 March 2024, the Baku City Khatai District Court extended Elnara Qasimova's pre-trial detention for another 3 months, until 13 June.

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**Conclusion:**

In connection with the arrest of Ulvi Hasanli, Sevinj Vaqifqizi and other employees of the Internet publication Abzas Media on 20 November 2023, Elnara Qasimova, an employee of that publication, was summoned for interrogation at the Baku City General Police Department on 23 November. For two hours, she has been interrogated and asked about her arrested colleagues for two hours.

On 13 January 2024, Elnara Qasimova was again summoned for interrogation at the Baku City General Police Department. However, following the interrogation, the journalist was detained as a suspect in the smuggling case that was being investigated against the Abzas Media team members. According to her lawyer, Bahruz Bayramov,

"Elnara Qasimova does not plead guilty to the charge. She related her arrest to the fact that she continued her journalistic work following the arrests of her Abzas Media colleagues. She was shooting and preparing reports for this publication".

On 15 January 2024, Elnara Qasimova was brought to the Baku City Khatai District Court, that approved the investigation's petition. When the journalist was brought to the Court, her hands were handcuffed behind her back to prevent her from greeting her colleagues who had gathered in front of the courthouse. She was not allowed to use the toilet in the courthouse prior to the hearing. At the Court she was handcuffed in front. Following the lawyer's protest, the Judge ordered to remove the handcuffs.

**18. Arzu Sayadoglu (Mammadov)** – blogger of the YouTube channel *Arzu Sayadoğlu* and head of the *Public Service Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 16 January 2024

**Charge:** Article 182.2.4 (*Extortion committed with causing damage to a victim in significant size*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 18 January 2024, the Baku City Sabayil District court issued an order: to satisfy the investigator's petition on arrest and issue a preventive measure against Arzu Sayadoglu in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center of the State Security Service.

**Conclusion:**

Arzu Sayadoglu, a 36-year-old well-known blogger, lived in a rented flat in Baku and was known for his critical views of the Azerbaijani authorities. On 13 January 2024, Arzu Sayadoglu once again harshly criticised the Azerbaijani authorities on the occasion of the extraordinary presidential elections on his YouTube channel *Azad Soz* (Azerb. "Free Thought"). He called on the citizens of the republic "not to be silent" and "to participate in the peaceful protests". Right after that he ceased to contact his relatives who lived in the village of Bozalganli in the Tovuz region. He didn't contact his friends either. Later, the human rights activists found out that he had been arrested by the State Security Service, who charged him with racketeering, although the nature of the racketeering was not specified.

The human rights activists related the blogger's arrest to his political activity and appeals to protests.

### **19. Alaskar Mammadli** – founder of the *Toplum TV*, an online Azerbaijani media outlet



**Date of arrest:** 8 March 2022

**Charge:** Article 206.3.2 (*Smuggling committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 8 March 2024, the Baku City Khatai District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Akif Qurbanov in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

#### ***Conclusion:***

On 6 and 7 March 2024, the at the Baku City General Police Department officers searched the office of Toplum TV Internet as well as the office of *Platform III Republic*, when a few employees were detained on suspicion of smuggling.

On 8 March, Alaskar Mammadli, a founder of Toplum TV, and Ruslan Izzatli, a board member of the Platform III Republic were detained in Baku. The police said they had found the foreign currency during searches in their apartments. In particular, 60,000 euros were found at Alaskar Mammadli's apartment. A bit later, however, the investigation stated that A. Mammadli was charged with smuggling of foreign currency in the amount of 7,300 euros. In this context, Mr. Aqil Lahij, a lawyer, pointed out to the journalists,

"It is interesting that following the search at the apartment of Mammadli's wife, the police announced that "60 thousand euros were found". But it seems that the police changed their minds and reduced the amount to 7,300 euros for the sake of 'plausibility'".

But A. Mammadli stated that the money did not belong to him, but rather was placed by the police officers.

On 11 March 2024, the management of Toplum TV released a statement in which they categorically rejected all accusations and claimed that the money had been planted by the police. According to Agil Lahij, a lawyer, his client has serious health issues,

"He has tumors in his throat, rectum and prostate that require immediately surgical operation. He was detained at the time when he was leaving the "Istanbul" clinic where he was undergoing a biopsy."

The EU criticized the Azerbaijani authorities for cracking down on the staff of Toplum TV.

## 20. **Mushfig Jabbarov** - journalist of *Toplum TV*, an online Azerbaijani media outlet



**Date of arrest:** 6 March 2022

**Charge:** Article 206.3.2 (*Smuggling committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 8 March 2024, the Baku City Khatai District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Akif Qurbanov in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

### ***Conclusion:***

On 6 March 2024, the at the Baku City General Police Department officers searched the office of Toplum TV Internet as well as the office of *Platform III Republic*, when a few employees were detained on suspicion of smuggling. Among them was Mushfig Jabbarov and the police said that 8,120 manat (approximately 4,800 USD) had been found during the search. Then they searched his home and claimed to find another 2,000 euros. The journalist categorically denied those accusations claiming that the money had been thrown by the police themselves.

On 11 March 2024, the management of Toplum TV released a statement in which they categorically rejected all accusations and claimed that the money had been planted by the police. The EU criticized the Azerbaijani authorities for cracking down on the staff of Toplum TV and Platform III Republic.

## GROUP № 2

### HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS – 2 persons

#### 21. Tale Vidadi oglu Khasmammadov – human rights defender



**Arrested:** 17 September 2023

**Charge:** Article 221.3 (*Hooliganism committed with application of a weapon or subjects, used as the weapon*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 19 September 2023, the Goychay District Court issued an order: to satisfy the investigator's petition on arrest and issue a preventive measure against Tale Khasmammadov in the form of arrest for a period of 3 months

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

#### **Conclusion:**

According to the mother of activist Gulbut Khasmammadova, her son has been arrested on a far-fetched charge:

"When I was waiting in the building for the court to decide on my son's case, one employee in civilian clothes said to me: "what did you think that your son would criticize the police with impunity?". This confirms that he was arrested on false charges. In fact, my son defended the rights of citizens."

According to her, the activist was detained on September 17 on the basis of a "slandorous complaint" by two persons.

Taleh Khasmammadov was previously convicted twice – for hooliganism and beating a person. Human rights activists recognized him as a political prisoner. Both times he was pardoned. In 2018, a criminal case was opened against him for the third time on charges of extortion, but he was later released.

#### 22. Rail Abbasov – public activist



**Arrested:** 19 September 2023

**Charge:** Article 178.3.2 (*Swindle, that is maintaining another persons property or buying another persons property by a deceit or breach of confidence, committed by organized group*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 20 September 2023, the Baku City Nasimi District Court issued an order: to satisfy the investigator's petition on arrest and issue a preventive measure against Rail Abbasov in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months. On 18 January 2024, the Baku City Nasimi District Court extended the term of his arrest for another 2 months.

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**Conclusion:**

Public activist Rail Abbasov was detained by officers of the Nasimi district police department of Baku on September 19. According to his lawyer Zubeida Sadigova, Abbasov was detained on the basis of a complaint from a certain citizen.

"Rail Abbasov does not accept the charges and declares that they want to arrest him in order to remove activist Bakhtiar Hajiyev from public protection," the lawyer said.

Azerbaijani human rights activists consider Abbasov's arrest a political order. After all, Rail Abbasov was actively involved in the protection of the rights of the arrested activist Bakhtiar Hajiyev, that's why he was arrested.

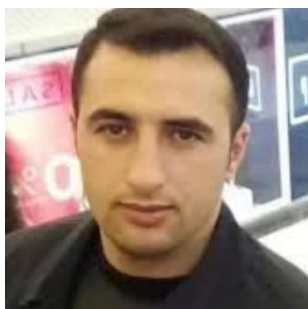
A few days before his arrest, Rail Abbasov drafted a petition to the head of state, which was signed by a number of well-known public figures calling for the release of Bakhtiar Hajiyev.

## GROUP № 3

### MEMBERS OF OPPOSITION PARTIES AND PUBLIC ORGANISATIONS

– 22 persons

#### 23. Niyamaddin Ahmadov - member of the *Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan*



**Date of arrest:** 16 April 2020

**Charge:** Article 214-1 (*Financing terrorism*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 8 October 2021, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 13 years in prison

**Conclusion:**

On 16 April 2020, Niyamaddin Ahmadov was placed in custody for 30 days under administrative detention "for violating quarantine measures and disobeying the lawful demands of a police officer". The Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan made a special statement stating that during the

administrative arrest N. Ahmadov had been taken out of the Binagadi Temporary Detention Facility and placed in the Pre-trial Detention Center of the State Security Service, where he had been subjected to torture in the form of inflicting physical injuries by means of beating and with the use of a taser. N. Ahmadov was kept in the Pre-trial Detention Center of the State Security Service, where he was tortured for 10 days. N. Ahmadov was forced to testify against Ali Karimli and other party members. On 9 May 2020, he was brought back to the Binagadi Temporary Detention Center.

On 16 May 2020, Niyamaddin Ahmadov's 30-day administrative arrest was due to expire. His family, relatives, friends and the journalists were waiting for Niyamaddin Ahmadov at the exit of the Binagadi Temporary Detention Center, where he had to be kept, but they were unable to meet him. The media wrote about his disappearance. There was no news about Niyamaddin Ahmadov for three days.

Only on 19 May 2020, the Azerbaijan Republic General Prosecutor's Office released the information about the initiation of criminal case against Niyamaddin Ahmadov confirming his detention in the Pre-trial Detention Center of the State Security Service. In the statement of the General Prosecutor's Office it was indicated that Ahmadov had received money from his fellow villager Qabil Mammadov residing in Germany in order to finance some terrorist organizations.

#### **24. Aqil Humbatov** - member of the *Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan*



**Date of arrest:** 15 August 2021

**Charge:** Article 126.1 (*Intentional infliction of serious harm to health*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 15 November 2021, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 10 years in prison

#### ***Conclusion:***

An activist of an opposition party is being persecuted for criticizing the authorities on social networks. On the eve of his detention, Aqil Humbatov's Facebook page was hacked and his video messages to the president, where he demanded the establishment of child benefits, were deleted. A. Humbatov was previously arrested on slanderous charges. In 2020, according to the perjury of one woman, Aqil Humbatov was placed in a psychiatric hospital.

#### **25. Shahin Hajiyev** - member of the *Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan*





**Date of arrest:** 26 January 2022

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances or their precursors committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 31 March 2022, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 4 years in prison

**Conclusion:**

In 2021, Shahin Hajiyev was repeatedly detained by the police, 2 times he has been detained administratively for 30 days. The fact that Shahin Hajiyev is under constant police persecution is due to his harsh criticism of the authorities on the social networks.

In his appeal to the public, he stated that he had been arrested upon the order on the basis of trumped-up charges. Hajiyev stated that he had signed his testimony as a result of torture. According to the activist, no expertise was conducted after his detention, and falsified reports were attached to his case.

"They wrote that a forensic drug examination dated on 29 November, determined that I had suffered from heroin addiction. However, no examination was conducted on 29 November.

I never used either cigarettes or alcohol," Hajiyev wrote.

The Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan is convinced that the real reason for the activist's arrest is his critical publications against the authorities on the social networks.

## 26. Zamin Oqtay oğlu Salayev - member of the *Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan*



**Date of arrest:** 7 February 2023

**Charge:** Article 221.3 (*Hooliganism committed with application of a weapon or subjects, used as the weapon*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 7 February 2023, the Baku City Qaradag District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Shahin Qadirli in the form of detention for a period of 3 month.

**Sentence:** On 22 May 2023, the Baku City Qaradag District Court sentenced to 4 years in prison

**Judge:** Rufan Mursalov

**Place of detention:** Penal Colony № 11 in Baku City Binagadi District

**Conclusion:**

According to the lawyer Neimat Karimli, Mr. Salayev denies the charges brought against him.

"He said that a planned provocation was committed against him. Last night, at a bus stop in the Lokbatan circle, he was attacked by a man with a knife, insulting Salayev. To defend himself, Salayev pushed this man away and wanted to leave the territory. However, a few minutes later, the police detained Salayev," the lawyer said.

According to him, as a sign of protest, Salayev went on a hunger strike from the day of his arrest. In turn, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, on the night of 7 February, a resident of the village of Sahil, Natiq Suleymanov was stabbed in the stomach and arm. The attacker fled the scene. The wounded man was hospitalized. After it, the police officers detained the suspect Zamin Salayev.

It is worth recalling that Alizamin Salayev has been arrested several times before on administrative and criminal charges.

On 20 April 2020, he was convicted on charges of "slander" and "insult" by the Salyan District Court and sentenced to two years and three months imprisonment. The charges were based on a complaint by a local police department officer. He was released on 19 January 2022.

## **27. Nazim Baydamirli (Mammadov) – ex-MP and businessman**



**Date of arrest:** 4 July 2023

**Charge:** Article 182.2.4 (*Extortion with the purpose to seize property in significant amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 5 July 2023, the Baku City Narimanov District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Nazim Baydamirli in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months. On 10 July, 2023, the Baku Court of Appeal did not grant Baydamirli's appeal leaving in force the decision of the Court of First Instance.

On 1 November 2023, the Baku City Narimanov District Court extended the term of his arrest for another 3 months. On 31 January 2024, the Baku City Narimanov District Court extended the term of his arrest for another 2 months.

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

### ***Conclusion:***

Nazim Baydamirli (Mammadov) was born in 1963 in the village of Chay Rasullu in Gadabay region. In the period from 2005 to 2010 he was a MP of the Azerbaijani Parliament elected at the Gadabay region. On 20 June 2023, the residents of Soyudlu village of Gadabay region held a rally protesting against the environmental pollution caused by a nearby gold mining facility. The police violently cracked down on the protest. As a result of the police actions 10 people had been injured whereas five others had been detained and arrested.

Following the protests in the village of Soyudlu in Gadabay region, Nazim Baydamirli expressed the legitimacy of the citizens' claims regarding the harmful impact on human health and environment caused by the activities of the nearby gold mining facility. As a result, he was detained on 4 July. He called his lawyer and informed him that he had been brought in due to his position in connection with the riots in Soyudlu village of Gadabay region.

According to the official version of the MIA press service, one of the citizens applied to the police with a complaint that Baydamirli had extorted 50,000 manat (\$29,400) from him, otherwise the businessman threatened to spread defamatory images of that citizen. According to the complainant, on 24 June that year he handed over AZN 10,000 (\$5,900) to the ex-deputy, but the latter was not pleased with the amount and continued to threaten him.

## 28. Gubad Ibadoglu - Head of the *Azerbaijan Democracy and Prosperity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 23 July 2023

**Charge:** Article 204.3.1 (*Manufacturing with a view of selling, and also buying or selling of counterfeit money, state securities either foreign currency, or securities in foreign currency committed by organized group*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 24 July 2023, the Baku City Narimanov District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Qubad Ibadoglu in the form of detention for a period of 4 months.

On 16 November 2023, the Baku City Narimanov District Court extended the term of his arrest for another 3 months. As lawyer Zubeida Sadigova told Turan Agency, "There may even be new charges against Gubad Ibadoglu".

On 7 March 2024, the Baku City Narimanov District Court presided by Vusal Gurbanov, considered a petition to transfer Gubad Ibadoglu to house arrest. According to his brother, Galib Bayramov, the motion was filed following the continuing deterioration of Gubad Ibadoglu's health,

"His blood sugar level is 2-3 times higher than normal either on an empty stomach or two hours after a meal. The increased sugar levels are badly affecting his kidneys, liver and vasculatures. Even the endocrinologist at the General Medical Department within the AR Ministry of Justice acknowledged the seriousness of the disease and Gubad Ibadoglu was prescribed a 10-day course of infusion therapy (the introduction of drugs into the blood). Previously, he was treated with pills for 30 days. However, there was no improvement."

Nevertheless, the Court rejected the petition.

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

### ***Conclusion:***

Initially, the reason for the arrest of Gubad Ibadoglu, a well-known Azerbaijani scholar-economist and politician, was the information regarding his association with the recognized in Turkey terrorist religious organisation FETÖ. But officially the reason for Gubad Ibadoglu's detention by the officers of the Interior Ministry Department for Combating with the Organised Crime was the complaint of some Anar Aliyev who claimed that Ibadoglu had sold him dollars. While searching Gubad's flat 40 thousand dollars were found. However, Ibadoglu stated that the cash had not been his, since he had not lived in the flat in the recent years and been engaged in the scientific and teaching activities in the United States and the United Kingdom; he had just returned to Azerbaijan in July 2023.

The real reason for the arrest was the fact that Gubad Ibadoglu, along with Prof. Jamil Hasanli, the Head of the opposition National Council, who has been living in political exile in Europe, and Arif Mammadov, a disgraced diplomat, they both had established the Azerbaijani Youth Education Fund registered on 27 June 2023 in London. Furthermore, Gubad Ibadoglu came up with an initiative to confiscate the Azerbaijani officials' and first of all Ilham Aliyev's properties abroad and transfer those funds to the above-mentioned Fund. His request aroused the anger in Baku, and as soon as Ibadoglu arrived from London he was immediately arrested in a particularly brutal manner and his wife was also hurt. That's why at the moment of detention, Ibadoglu briefly replied to the journalists' question regarding the reasons "It was Ilham Aliyev's order".

That arrest and ridiculous accusations against Ibadoglu sparked a wave of public outrage. A campaign under the slogan "Free Gubad Ibadoglu!" was launched by the activists on social

networks. The arrest of the internationally renowned scientist evoked a reaction abroad as well: the European Union demanded Ibadoglu's release. A joint statement requesting the release of Gubad Ibadoglu signed by the Ambassadors of Germany, France, the United Kingdom and the United States on the territory of Azerbaijan was also issued.

## 29. Elkhan Aliyev - member of the *Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan*



**Date of arrest:** 26 July 2023

**Charge:** Articles 178.3.2 (*Swindle, that is maintaining another persons property or buying another persons property by a deceit or breach of confidence, committed by organized group*); 320.1 (*Fake of certificate or other official document giving the rights or releasing from duties, with a view of its use or selling of such document, as well as manufacturing in same purposes or selling of counterfeit state awards of the Azerbaijan Republic, stamps, seals, forms*) and 320.2 (*Use of obviously counterfeit documents*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 27 July 2023, the Baku City Sabunchi District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Elkhan Aliyev in the form of arrest for a period of 3 months.

On 21 September 2023, the Baku Court of Appeal did not satisfy the defense's complaint against the refusal to transfer Elkhan Aliyev. His lawyer Neymat Karimli called the court's decision unfounded and says, that now the defense will appeal to the European Court of Human Rights.

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

### **Conclusion:**

Elkhan Aliyev was detained by the Baku City Sabunchi District Police Department officers in the afternoon of 26 July 2023. Yusif Aliyev and Vafadar Akhundov were also detained along with Aliyev, as said in the press service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. According to the MIA version, all three of them were suspected of selling a land plot in Nardaran settlement using the forged documents.

Prior to his detention, Aliyev released a video in which he spoke of a possible provocation against him.

According to the lawyer, Neimat Karimli, his client denied the accusation and declared that his arrest was of a political nature:

"Elkhan Aliyev said that the accusation had been trumped up. He did not commit the offences he was accused of. The investigation did not provide the initial reliable evidence of Aliyev's guilt. The activist said that he is being persecuted for political reasons because of his PFA political activities".

The lawyer did not reveal the details of the case having referred to the confidentiality agreement but indicated that he would file an appeal.

It should be noted that Elkhan Aliyev has been repeatedly subjected to administrative arrests. Thus, in October 2021, he was detained for 15 days on charges of disobeying the police, and in December of that year, Aliyev was arrested for 20 days for participating in a rally. On 19 March 2022, Elkhan Aliyev was arrested for a 30-day period on charges of disobeying police and hooliganism. Following his arrest, Aliyev claimed that 2,500 manat (\$1,500) had gone missing from his car

having suspected the law enforcement officials in the matter. While in the detention center he went on a hunger strike to protest against his arrest and the money disappearance.

### **30. Elvin Mustafayev** – activist of the *Trade Unions Confederation “Workers’ Table”*



**Arrested:** 4 August 2023

**Charge:** Articles 234.4.1 (*Illegal purchase, storage, manufacturing, processing, transportation without a purpose of selling of narcotics or psychotropic substances in a quantity (amount) exceeding necessary for personal consumption*) and 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 5 August 2023, the Baku City Binagadi District Court issued an order: to satisfy the investigator’s petition on arrest and issue a preventive measure against Elvin Mustafayev in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months

**Sentence:** On 11 March 2024, the Baku City Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Articles of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Elvin Mustafayev was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**Judge:** Faiq Qaniyev

#### ***Conclusion:***

On 1 August 2023, in Baku, there was a rally organised by the motorbike couriers. They protested against the police that requested their driving licenses and the actions of the authorities taking their vehicles to the impound yard. It should be noted that the new law adopted in this field prohibited such actions of the police.

Among those taking part in the rally there were members of the Trade Unions Confederation “Workers’ Table” including an activist Elvin Mustafayev who, in March 2023, had previously been arrested for his critical statements on social media for the period of 30 days. He was arrested for criticising the authorities’ negligence on the water shortage in the Saatly District of Azerbaijan. Elvin Mustafayev, interrogated in the course of the trial, testified that he worked as a courier for the Wolt Company. He had never been involved in drug dealing and, moreover, had always had a negative attitude towards such people, always avoiding them. He also testified that he had been forcibly detained in his yard and forced to “confess” due to threats, which had been recorded on a video. He was threatened to face heavier charges if he failed to admit guilt.



### 31. Aykhan Israfilov – activist of the *Trade Unions Confederation “Workers’ Table”*



**Arrested:** 11 August 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

On 14 August 2023, the Baku City Binagadi District Court issued an order: to satisfy the investigator’s petition on arrest and issue a preventive measure against Aykhan Israfilov in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 3 of Shuvelyan

#### ***Conclusion:***

Aykhan Israfilov was detained on 11 August 2023 by employees of the Narimanov district police department of Baku.

According to the head of the movement “Democracy 1918” Ahmad Mammadli, Israfilov's detention is of a political nature with connection with participation of the couriers' action on 1 August 2023.

### 32. Elbayi Karimli - member of the *Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan*



**Arrested:** 28 August 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

On 28 August 2023, the court issued an order: to satisfy the investigator’s petition on arrest and issue a preventive measure against Elbayi Karimli in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

#### ***Conclusion:***

Elbayi Karimli, activist of the Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan (PFPA), was filming the Heydar Aliyev monument at the end of August 2023 and was caught by the police. He was brutally beaten



at the police station, after which he was charged with the possession and distribution of drugs. His party allies tried unsuccessfully to obtain information about Elbayi Karimli who had been missing for two months. The situation was worsened by the fact that the young activist was an orphan and had no relatives. The police didn't provide any information either. It was only on 24 October that PFPA got an anonymous call from the police informing them that Elbayi Karimli had been arrested and held in Detention Center No. 1 in Kyurdakhani. After that, the PFPA hired a lawyer and two months later, Elbayi Karimli met his lawyer, Neimat Karimli, who finally informed the young PFPA activist under which Article of the Criminal Code he had been arrested. On 28 December 2023, in the course of the trial, Elbayi Karimli categorically denied the charges against him and pointed out that he had been detained for making a video recording of the Heydar Aliyev monument. He also declared that he had started a hunger strike against criminal prosecution as a sign of protest on the eve of the trial.

### 33. Afiyaddin Mammadov – Chairman of the *Trade Unions Confederation “Workers’ Table”*



**Arrested:** 20 September 2023

**Charge:** Articles 126.1 (*Deliberate causing of serious harm to health, is harm dangerous to human life*), 126.2.4 (*Deliberate causing of serious harm to health, is harm dangerous to human life, committed publicly dangers a way, from hooligan prompting*), 221.3 (*Hooliganism committed with application of a weapon or subjects, used as the weapon*) and 228.4 (*Illegal purchase, selling or carrying of gas weapon, cold steel, including throwing weapon, except for districts where carrying of a cold steel is an accessory of a national suit or connected to hunting*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 21 September 2023, the Baku City Khatai District Court issued an order: to satisfy the investigator's petition on arrest and issue a preventive measure against Afiyaddin Mammadov in the form of arrest for a period of 2 months. On 29 September 2023, the Baku Court of Appeal did not grant Afiyaddin Mammadov's appeal leaving in force the decision of the Court of First Instance.

On 15 November 2023, the Baku City Khatai District Court extended the term of his arrest for another 3 months.

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

#### **Conclusion:**

Chairman of the alternative Trade Unions Confederation “Workers’ Table” Afiyaddin Mammadov was detained by police on the afternoon of September 20 near his home. According to the relatives and members of Trade Unions Confederation “Workers’ Table”,

“Afiyaddin was detained when he left the building where he lives. One person approached him, he injured himself with a knife and threw the knife at Afiyaddin. And the police immediately appeared and detained Afiyaddin.”

The organization believes that Mammadov's detention is related to his trade union activities and a provocation was committed against him.

Afiyaddin Mammadov himself also said about his innocence and claims that he is being unjustly targeted for his activities within the organization.

#### **34. Ruslan Adil oglu Vahabov** - activist of the *Public Council of Talysh of Azerbaijan*



**Date of arrest:** 22 September 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 23 September 2023, the Baku City Nizami District Court issued a ruling: to satisfy the investigator's petition to elect a measure of restraint in the form of arrest and impose on Ruslan Vahabov a measure of restraint in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months. On 29 September 2023, the Baku City Court of Appeal did not satisfy the appeal to change the measure of restraint to house arrest against Ruslan Vahabov and upheld the first instance court's ruling.

**Sentence:** On 12 January 2024, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 4 years in prison

**Judge:** Elnur Nuriyev

#### ***Conclusion:***

Ruslan Vahabov, a 33-year-old civil society activist criticised the activities of the Azerbaijani authorities in social and economic spheres on the social networks. At the same time, as a member of the Public Council of Talysh of Azerbaijan (PCTA), he has been in favour of ensuring the constitutional national-cultural rights of his people. During his public activities, he has repeatedly been subjected to pressure from the police.

On 21 September 2023, on his Facebook page, he wrote an anti-war text entitled "What did we earn for 23 hours and 43 minutes?", in which he meant that the one-day military operation in Karabakh pursued the goal of the ruling elite's enrichment. On the morning of 22 September, as he was on his way to work, he was detained by the police from the 23rd Station of the Baku Nizami District. According to his relatives and the PSTA management, the police brutally assaulted Ruslan Vahabov at the police station and then grabbed him by the hair and dragged him across the floor, telling him "We will now show you what we have achieved in Karabakh within 24 hours". Unable to withstand the torture, R. Vahabov incriminated himself, i.e. admitted that he had allegedly been detected with 6 grammes of heroin and that the drugs belonged to him.

Vahabov's lawyer, Elchin Sadigov, confirmed to the journalists that Ruslan Vahabov had complained about abuse, self-incrimination and the claims of law enforcement officers in connection with the publication on the social network. The defender also pointed out that Vahabov's rights had been violated following his detention: he was not allowed to contact his family and ask for a lawyer of his choice.

However, the Court of Appeal, presided over by the Judge Ibrahim Ibrahimli, did not pay attention to Vahabov's claim of torture and his lawyer's arguments about violation of the activist's rights to defence and lack of primary reliable evidence of the defendant's guilt; the Court dismissed the complaint.

The PSTA members are convinced that Ruslan Vahabov has been persecuted for his anti-war statements, as well as his social media posts in which he raised the issues of ensuring the Talyshs' national and cultural rights. The organisation also pointed out that Vahabov is the only family breadwinner and has two young children. Moreover, Vahabov has health problems, has suffered from jaundice, also has a chronic lung disease, and from this point of view his detention is not only unreasonable but also inhuman.

### **35. Rza Safarsoy** – Chairman of the “*Homeland of Decent Azerbaijani Children*” Party



**Date of arrest:** 24 November 2023

**Charge:** Article 228 (*Illegal purchase, transfer, selling, storage, transportation and carrying of fire-arms, accessories to it, supplies, explosives*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. On 27 November 2023, the Baku City Khazar District Court issued a ruling: to satisfy the investigator's petition to elect a measure of restraint in the form of arrest and impose on Rza Safarsoy a measure of restraint in the form of arrest for a period of 3 months.

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 3 of Shuvelyan

#### ***Conclusion:***

According to Tarana Safarsoy, wife of the party leader, on 24 November 2023 the Baku Khazar District Policemen not showing a warrant searched her house in Bina settlement on the outskirts of Baku, and then took Rza Safarsoy away.

"When the police searched our house, they closed me for almost two hours in their car. In the meantime, they turned upside down everything in the house. They took our computers, mobile phones and other equipment from our house. However, they neither provided any documents regarding the search, nor drew up a report on the seizure of equipment confiscated in the course of the search. After having completed the search, they took away my husband with them. On 25 November, I was also questioned at the Khazar district police department".

According to Rza Safarsoy's wife, her husband had been arrested for criticising the country's leaders and his public and political activities on social networks. Indeed, on social networks there are his remarks on the arrests of believers, in defence of Bakhtiyar Hajiyev and other political prisoners.

Previously, Rza Safarsoy has also been repeatedly prosecuted for his critical speeches on the Internet and social networks. In 2018, in connection with the events in Ganja, once again he criticised the actions of the authorities and called on Azerbaijani society not to silently monitor the arbitrariness of the authorities. As a result, he was arrested and sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment in 2018, that ruling was issued by the Sabayil District Court. Rza Safarsoy pleaded not guilty and

appealed against the sentence. On 11 February 2019, at the Baku Court of Appeal, presided over by Judge Elmar Rahimov, his appeal was partially satisfied: the punishment imposed on Safarsoy was decreased from 2 years to 7 months 2 days. He was released from the courtroom the day upon expiration of his sentence.

### 36. Elnur Hasanov - member of the *Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan*



**Date of arrest:** 28 November 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 30 November 2023, the Baku City Khatai District Court issued a ruling: to satisfy the investigator's petition to elect a measure of restraint in the form of arrest and impose on Rza Safarsoy a measure of restraint in the form of arrest for a period of 3 months.

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

#### **Conclusion:**

Elnur Hasanov was detained by police in civilian clothes at the car market. This happened after Hasanov criticized the traffic police on social networks, accusing them of unjustified application of fines. He also criticized the authorities of the country where the laws do not work. The PPFa believes that Hasanov is being held accountable precisely for this criticism.

### 37. Ilhamiz Quliyev – public activist



**Date of arrest:** 4 December 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.1 (*Illegal purchase or storage without a purpose of selling of narcotics or psychotropic substances in a quantity (amount) exceeding necessary for personal consumption*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 6 December 2023, the Baku City Yasamal District Court issued an order: to satisfy the investigator's petition on arrest and issue a preventive measure against Ilhamiz Quliyev in the form of detention for a period of 4 months.

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**Conclusion:**

Ilhamiz Quliyev, a non-governmental activist, has been providing legal assistance to the residents of Agdam district within the framework of USAID (United States Agency for International Development) project for the last two years. He had previously worked as a police officer. On 27 September 2023, he gave an interview to a journalist of Abzas Media, an online Azerbaijani media outlet, in which he explained in detail how the Azerbaijani police officers fabricate cases against undesirable individuals. In particular, some of the drugs found during the arrest of criminals are not recorded in the documents so that later these drugs can be thrown to the political government opponents. Even though I. Quliyev's voice had been changed with a special program while he was interviewed, the Ministry of Internal Affairs officers found out whose voice it was, and on October 5, Guliyeu was arrested for 30 days under the administrative Article "for petty hooliganism and disobedience to the police".

On 25 November 2023, I. Quliyev, having been released, decided to go to Tbilisi for a medical treatment, but coming to the airport he found out that he was banned from leaving the country. At the same time he noticed the surveillance by the people in civilian clothes. Realizing that he could be arrested on drug-related charges, on 17 November 2023, I. Quliyev underwent a special expertise at the 1st Republican Narcology Center, which determined that he did not use drugs, and issued him a relevant document, that I. Quliyev spread across the social networks.

But it did not help. On 4 December 2023, in the afternoon, Ilhamiz Quliyev was detained by the people in civilian clothes. Later, one of his relatives told the reporters:

"Ilhamiz was dragged away violently. He was pulled away, beaten on the head".

Although I. Quliyev was taken to the Baku 28th department of the Internal Affairs, the police denied his presence for three hours. All that time I. Quliyev was subjected to beatings. Only in the evening, it was officially confirmed that I. Quliyev had been detained in the Baku Yasamal District Police Department.

On 6 December 2023, in the course of the trial at the Baku Yasamal District Court I. Quliyev reported on torture in the police and demonstrated the traces of violence. In this regard, the Court made a decision to apply to the Prosecutor's Office to investigate the activist's statement about torture.

### 38. Mohyaddin Orujev – public activist



**Date of arrest:** 13 December 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.



On 15 December 2023, the Baku City Surakhani District Court issued an order: to satisfy the investigator's petition on arrest and issue a preventive measure against Mohyaddin Orujov in the form of detention for a period of 4 months.

On 22 December 2023, the Baku City Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal against M.Orujev's arrest.

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 3 of Shuvelyan

***Conclusion:***

On 19 October 2023, M. Orujev was arrested for a 30-day period on charges of petty hooliganism and disobedience to the law enforcement officers. According to his brother, the real reason for the arrest was M. Orujev's critique regarding the policy of the authorities that he expressed on Facebook.

After being released, M. Orujev wrote on his Facebook page that the officers of the Baku City Surakhani District 32nd Police Station subjected him to the brutal beating and psychological assault.

In response, the officers of the same police station detained him again in the morning of 13 December 2023, without informing the activist's relatives about the place of his detention. Only by the end of the day it was known that M. Orujev had been arrested, but that time as a suspect in a drug case.

On 22 December 2023, M. Orujev's lawyer, Nazim Musayev, told the journalists, that during the Baku City Court of Appeal session, M. Orujev had claimed that he was deprived of the right to make a phone call in the pre-trial detention center. According to the lawyer, that restriction could only be enforced by an investigative body. However, the investigator informed the lawyer that he had not made such a request. In her turn, M. Orujev's mother made a statement to the journalists saying:

"We managed to communicate with him only once on 15 December, when he was taken out of the courthouse. My son managed to tell us that he was blackmailed by my arrest and the "discovery" of a large batch of drugs at home, therefore, he was forced to confess".

**39. Tofiq Rashid oglu Yaqublu** – member of the *Musavat* Party and Coordinating Center of the *National Council of Democratic Forces of Azerbaijan*



**Date of arrest:** 14 December 2023

**Charge:** Articles 178.3.2 (*Swindle, that is maintaining another persons property or buying another persons property by a deceit or breach of confidence, committed by organized group*) and 320.1 (*Fake of certificate or other official document giving the rights or releasing from duties, with a view of its use or selling of such document, as well as manufacturing in same purposes or*



*selling of counterfeit state awards of the Azerbaijan Republic, stamps, seals, forms*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 15 December 2023, the Baku City Narimanov District Court issued an order: to satisfy the investigator's petition on arrest and issue a preventive measure against Tofiq Yaqublu in the form of detention for a period of 4 months.

On 21 December 2023, the Baku City Court of Appeal dismissed the motion to cancel the first instance court's ruling on the arrest of the opposition activist Tofiq Yaqublu. On 9 January 2024, the Narimanov District Court of Baku refused the motion to transfer Tofiq Yaqublu under the house arrest.

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

***Conclusion:***

Tofiq Yaqublu is one of the most famous Azerbaijani politicians, a former deputy chairman of the opposition "Musavat" Party, a member of the Coordination Center of the National Council of Democratic Forces of Azerbaijan, has been repeatedly arrested, tortured and imprisoned. In March 2014, he was sentenced to 5-year-imprisonment. He was recognized as a prisoner of conscience by the Amnesty International. He was released in March 2016, since then he has been repeatedly arrested and beaten.

In late November - early December 2023, in connection with the arrests of journalists in the country, Tofiq Yaqublu harshly condemned the Azerbaijani authorities in his publications on social networks and in interviews, pointing out to the police arbitrariness at the time of recent arrests. Tofiq Yaqublu called to boycott the early presidential elections declared by the authorities. The authorities' response was immediate: on 14 December 2023, the well-known politician was detained by the officers from the Baku City Narimanov District Police Department. At the same time, the police burst into his apartment and searched it. The search caused a strong public outcry, as the politician's daughter, Nigar Hazi, posted on Facebook and then told the journalists that the police frankly planted the money during the search,

"They "found" money in our house. They planted 5,000 euros, 2,500 manats and some dollars."

As it was later revealed, Yaqublu was charged with crimes related to fraud and forgery.

Tofiq Yaqublu was initially brought in as a suspect in a case of fraud with major loss, forgery of official documents and their use.

However, according to the politician's lawyer, Neimat Karimli, the investigation soon brought charges against Tofiq Yaqublu accusing him in preparing and sending a particular individual abroad in order to obtain political asylum there:

"Allegedly, in exchange for a monetary reward, Tofiq Yaqublu promised the man to provide him with the necessary documents in order to obtain a status of political asylum in Europe. According to the investigation, they met and made a deal on 8 December 2023, but on 11 December, a criminal case was opened on the matter. It is impossible to investigate and determine the facts so quickly in cases of fraud. It is obvious that the case was fabricated," said the lawyer.

The defense lawyer abstained from commenting in detail, referring to the confidentiality obligations of the inquiry. He noted that Tofiq Yaqublu has categorically refused to accept the charges and linked the prosecution with his opposition activities.

**40. Akif Qurbanov** - Head of the *Institute for Democratic Initiatives* and co-founder of the socio-political organization *Platform III Republic*



**Date of arrest:** 6 March 2022

**Charge:** Article 206.3.2 (*Smuggling committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 8 March 2024, the Baku City Khatai District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Akif Qurbanov in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

***Conclusion:***

Akif Qurbanov was detained by the officers of the Baku City General Police Department at the office of Platform III Republic in the afternoon of March 6, 2024. The office has been searched. His lawyer, Shahla Humbatova, stated, that "Akif Qurbanov said that €30,000 was seized from the office, the money was planted by the law enforcement officers themselves. In fact, 5-6 police officers had raided his office. Akif Qurbanov and Ruslan Izzatli, a member of the board of the Platform III Republic were closed into one of the rooms, and the police were able to do whatever they wanted. And then they allegedly found €30,000 in the office. Akif Qurbanov says that the money does not belong either to him or to the organization".

According to Shahla Humbatova, the searches in the office and apartment were conducted without the lawyer's involvement,

"I found out about the detention only after the office had been searched. But the police officers did not allow me to attend the search in the apartment."

She also noted that some personal documents were seized during the search at Qurbanov's apartment.

On 6 March 2024, there were conducted searches at the offices of Toplum TV and Platform III Republic, and with several employees were detained on suspicion of smuggling.

Those actions have alarmed both human rights activists and media observers, who considered them as part of a broader campaign of the suppression of dissent in the country.

The EU criticized the Azerbaijani authorities for cracking down on the staff of Toplum TV and Platform III Republic.

**41. Ruslan Izzatli** – member of the *Institute for Democratic Initiatives* and Founding Board Member of the socio-political organization *Platform III Republic*



**Date of arrest:** 8 March 2022

**Charge:** Article 206.3.2 (*Smuggling committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 8 March 2024, the Baku City Khatai District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Akif Qurbanov in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

***Conclusion:***

On 6 March 2024, the at the Baku City General Police Department officers searched the office of Toplum TV Internet as well as the office of Platform III Republic, when a few employees were detained on suspicion of smuggling. Among them was Ruslan Izzatli. On the night of 6 March, he was released after interrogation, however, on the afternoon of 8 March, he was again detained by the men in civilian clothes in front of the Baku City Khatai District Police Department. He was then forced into a black car and taken away in an unknown direction. In the evening, his house was searched. The police officers claimed that they had found foreign currency. His lawyer was not there, and his wife was in the other room and could not see the search process.

The EU criticized the Azerbaijani authorities for cracking down on the staff of Toplum TV and Platform III Republic.

**42. Ali Zeynalov** - member of the *Institute for Democratic Initiatives*



**Date of arrest:** 6 March 2022

**Charge:** Article 206.3.2 (*Smuggling committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 8 March 2024, the Baku City Khatai District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Ali Zeynalov in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

***Conclusion:***

On 6 March 2024, the at the Baku City General Police Department officers searched the office of Toplum TV Internet as well as the office of Platform III Republic, when a few employees were detained on suspicion of smuggling. Among them was Ali Zeynalov.

The EU criticized the Azerbaijani authorities for cracking down on the staff of Toplum TV and Platform III Republic.

**43. Ramil Babayev - member of the *Institute for Democratic Initiatives***



**Date of arrest:** 6 March 2022

**Charge:** Article 206.3.2 (*Smuggling committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 8 March 2024, the Baku City Khatai District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Ramil Babayev in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

***Conclusion:***

On 6 March 2024, the at the Baku City General Police Department officers searched the office of Toplum TV Internet as well as the office of Platform III Republic, when a few employees were detained on suspicion of smuggling. Among them was Ramil Babayev.

The EU criticized the Azerbaijani authorities for cracking down on the staff of Toplum TV and Platform III Republic.

**44. Ilkin Amrahov - member of the *Institute for Democratic Initiatives***



**Date of arrest:** 6 March 2022

**Charge:** Article 206.3.2 (*Smuggling committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 8 March 2024, the Baku City Khatai District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Ilkin Amrahov in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

***Conclusion:***

On 6 March 2024, the at the Baku City General Police Department officers searched the office of Toplum TV Internet as well as the office of Platform III Republic, when a few employees were detained on suspicion of smuggling. Among them was Ilkin Amrahov.

As his lawyer Rovshana Rahimova later told the journalists, Ilkin Amrahov was subjected to pressure by the police following his detention,

"The young man was not allowed to contact his family in order to inform them about his detention. During the search at the apartment his parents were locked in one of the rooms. Afterwards, €2,700 were "found" in the apartment and Amrahov was forced to admit that the money belonged to him. Ilkin denies the accusation of smuggling. He doesn't even own a passport, he hasn't been abroad, and according to the Article, "smuggling" assumes illegal importation of funds into the country. Moreover, Ilkin was interrogated until 11 p.m., while he had a high temperature and suffered from a severe pain in the throat".

As soon as the appointed lawyer left, the investigator handed him another testimony to sign, not letting him read it, and Rahimova emphasized,

"He said that because of the fever, the young man did not remember what he had said at all. Ilkin said that he renounced the primary testimony written down in the case file. He also said that he could not understand the accusation at all and disagreed with it. Nevertheless, the Court arrested him for four months; the ruling will be appealed".

The EU criticized the Azerbaijani authorities for cracking down on the staff of Toplum TV and Platform III Republic.

## **GROUP № 4**

### **POLITICAL EMIGRANTS DEPORTED FROM GERMANY**

#### **– 5 persons**

#### **45. Mutallim Orujev - member of the *Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan***



**Date of arrest:** 23 October 2021

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 21 October 2022, the Sumgayit City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 7 years in prison

**Judge:** Fahmin Humbatov

**Conclusion:**

Mutallim Orujev, a member of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan Party, had lived in Germany the past several years. He participated in the rallies concerning the protection of the political prisoners' rights in Azerbaijan. On 1 June 2021, Mutallim Orujev was deported from Germany to Azerbaijan. The media sources informed that the Azerbaijani citizens deported from Germany some months earlier had been questioned by the police; some of them had been detained.

**46. Malik Rzayev - member of the *Musavat* Party**



**Date of arrest:** 25 October 2021

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 28 September 2022, the Sumgayit City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 7 years in prison

**Conclusion:**

Malik Rzayev, a member of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan Party, had lived in Germany the past several years. He participated in the rallies concerning the protection of the political prisoners' rights in Azerbaijan. On 1 June 2021, M. Rzayev was deported from Germany to Azerbaijan.

On 25 October 2021, he was arrested in the Taqiyeve settlement of Sumgayit. Lawyer Neimat Karimli declared a violation of the procedural Code and considers the arrest politically motivated:

"From the beginning the investigation was conducted with violations. After the arrest, Rzayev was not allowed to call relatives and invite his lawyer. The state lawyer did not even write an appeal against the arrest. Unfortunately, I was involved to the defense late and the deadline for the arrest appeal has been missed. We will file a motion to change the preventive measure to house arrest. I have already written a complaint to the Sumgayit City Prosecutor's Office in connection with Rzayev's statement about torture."

According to Karimli, Rzayev told him about torture:

"Malik Rzayev was brutally beaten up, his legs were parted into splits; they threatened to rape him with a foreign object. Under such pressure, he was forced to testify about the allegedly found drugs on him," the advocate has stated.

Rzayev denied the accusation. He was arrested almost simultaneously with activist of the Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan Muallim Orujev, who was also deported from Germany last summer. According to human rights activists, in Germany both participated in actions in defense of political prisoners in Azerbaijan.



**47. Punkhan Karimli** - member of the *Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan*



**Date of arrest:** 25 January 2022

**Charge:** Articles 234.4.1 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons or organized group*) and 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 27 July 2022, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 6 years in prison

**Judge:** Samir Aliyev

**Conclusion:**

Punkhan Karimli, a member of the Khatai branch of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan Party, was detained by the officers of the Anti-Drug General Directorate and arrested on the false accusation related to drug possession. Punkhan Karimli had been living in Germany for some time, where he took an active part in most of the actions organized by the political emigrants in Europe. A few months ago, he was deported from Germany to Azerbaijan and detained near the Narimanov Park on 25 January 2022.

**48. Jafar Mirzoyev** - member of the "*Choose Democratic Azerbaijan*" organization operating in Germany



**Date of arrest:** 24 November 2021

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances or their precursors committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 16 January 2023, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 6 years in prison

**Judge:** Javid Huseynov

**Conclusion:**

Jafar Mirzoyev was deported from Germany. According to Karimli's lawyer, after his readmission, his clients were placed in a pandemic athletes' village of Baku and questioned by some people in civilian clothes about their activities in Germany.

The lawyer, Neimat Karimli, (defends the rights of 3 of 4 detainees after deportation from Germany - Mutallim Orujev, Malik Rzayev and Jafar Mirzoyev) said,

"The mentioned individuals, upon their return to Baku, were subjected to interrogations and they were asked about their activities in Germany. My clients testified under the pressure. The complaints concerning the use of torture against them remained inconclusive".

#### 49. Samir Ashurov



**Date of arrest:** 19 April 2022

**Charge:** Article 126.2.4 (*Deliberate causing of serious harm to health, committed from hooligan prompting*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 21 April 2022, the Baku City Nizami District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Samir Ashurov in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months.

Samir Ashurov denied the charge and started a hunger strike, demanding stop his persecution.

**Sentence:** On 28 December 2023, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 6,5 years in prison

**Judge:** Faiq Qaniyev

#### **Conclusion:**

Samir Ashurov was deported from Germany on 29 March 2022 and after arrival in Baku announced of his arrest. On 19 April 2022, he received a passport and planned to go abroad, but on the same day was committed provocation against him. When Samir Ashurov got home, an unknown person was attacked him. He knocked Ashurov to the ground and immediately police officers appeared, who detained him and put a knife in his right jacket pocket. He was brought to the 24th Police Station. There Ashurov was beaten, and later he was beaten again in the Nizami Police Department.

In his last word on the trial, Samir Ashurov stated that he did not commit the crimes accused of him. He noted that a provocation was committed against him for his opposition activities.

"I emigrated to Germany in 2018 after I was twice subjected to administrative arrests in Azerbaijan. In Germany, I continued the fight for human rights in Azerbaijan. On 29 March 2022, I was expelled. In Baku I was summoned to the prosecutor's office and threatened. Then I made a statement that I could be arrested. That's what happened," Ashurov said.

Lawyer Elchin Sadigov said that the judicial investigation did not prove Ashurov's guilt. However, important defense requests were not satisfied. The defense will appeal the verdict.

**GROUP № 5**  
**BELIVERS - 208 people**

**50. Ilham Aliyev** – member of the *Islamic Party of Azerbaijan*



**Date of arrest:** 29 February 2020

**Charge:** Article 274 (*Treason to the Motherland*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

**Sentence:** On 6 May 2021, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 16 years in prison

**Judge:** Faiq Hasanov

**Place of detention:** Penal Colony № 12 in the settlement Puta of Baku City Qaradag District

***Conclusion:***

The authorities have been actively persecuting peaceful believers, especially activists of the Islamic Party of Azerbaijan and the Muslim Unity Movement, for almost 20 years. In 2011, the Chairman of the IPA, Movsum Samadov, was arrested and sentenced to 12 years in prison on charges of attempting to violently overthrow the constitutional order and create a religious state in the country. Ilham Aliyev took his place in the Islamic party and was also arrested.

**51. Sardar Babayev** - member of the Association *Spiritual figures of Azerbaijan*



**Date of arrest:** 19 October 2021

**Charge:** Article 274 (*High treason*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 21 October 2021, the Baku City Sabayil District Court, having considered the case at a closed judicial session, issued a ruling to impose on Sardar Babayev a preventive measure in the form of arrest for a period of 6 months.

On 18 September 2022, the Baku Sabayil District Court to extend Sardar Babayev's preventive measure for another 5 months, until 19 March 2023. On 9 March 2023, there was the first court hearing. Following it, on 14 April 2023, the Sabayil district court ruled to extend a detention period for the theologian Sardar Babayev while under investigation for another 5 months, until 19 September 2023.

**Sentence:** On 28 September 2023, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 17 years in prison

**Judge:** Ahmad Quliyev

**Place of detention:** Penal Colony № 7 at the Ahmadli settlement in Baku City Khatai District

**Conclusion:**

Sardar Babayev, 49 years old, also known as Sheikh Sardar Hajihasanly, is a very popular theologian, especially in the southern Azerbaijan. His Friday sermons at the mosque in Masally have always been popular. He has already been convicted for that in February 2017. After his release in February 2020, he founded the website [maide.az](http://maide.az), where he published not only religious content, but also materials on socio-political issues. When in 2021 Azerbaijani-Iranian relations began to deteriorate and there were detentions and arrests among the Shiite believers, S.Babayev was one of the first victims of the campaign; on 19 October 2021, the State Security Service arrested him along with 4 other members of the public association "Spiritual Figures of Azerbaijan" on charges of treason and espionage in favour of Iran.

Babayev denied the charge. His lawyer, Javad Javadov, told the journalists that,

"Sardar Babayev was accused of the state treason in the form of espionage in favour of Iran. Even at the stage of the investigation he stated that the charges were far-fetched, and he was a victim of the deterioration of Azerbaijani-Iranian relations. Babayev refused to testify in court as a sign of protest. His guilt was not proved in the court either by the witness testimonies or by other evidence. The man was convicted simply on the basis of subjective inferences of the investigation representatives".

At the same time, the defence lawyer abstained from commenting on the details of the prosecution, as the trial was held in private and the lawyer has non-disclosure obligations. According to him, the defence intends to file an appeal against the verdict.

## 52. Vugar Rasulov - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Arrested:** 18 June 2022

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 18 June 2022, he was detained by the individuals in civilian clothes. No authorisation have been shown, there were no witnesses at the place. He had been taken to an unknown location.

His relatives said that though Vugar Rasulov had been in custody since 18 July 2022, they had been informed about his whereabouts and charges only days later, on 22 July. He was facing a criminal case on drug charges. Vugar Rasulov denies the charge.

**Sentence:** On 25 January 2023, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 3 years in prison

**Judge:** Azad Madjidov

**Conclusion:**

According to the investigation, it was found 2 small sachets of methamphetamine for sale in the possession of Vugar Rasulov. However, there is no reliable evidence in the case, other than the police officers' testimonies, the ones who arrested Vugar Rasulov.

Vugar Rasulov considered the verdict unjustified. The main reason for his arrest he attributed to his activity on the social network page.

In the course of the trial, the State Prosecutor Fariz Rzayev suggested sentencing Vugar Rasulov to 7 years and 6 months imprisonment. But Rashad Miriyev, Rasulov's lawyer, regarded the accusation unjustified. Highlighting the insufficiency of evidence, the lawyer asked the court to alter the Article. The Judge Azad Madjidov granted the lawyer's request and changed the Article from 234.3.4 to 234.1 (*Transportation, storage, and the like, of drugs in excess of the legal amount for personal consumption without intent to sell*) and convicted Vugar Rasulov according to the Article 234.1 sentencing him to 3- year-period of imprisonment.

## **ARRESTED ON NARDARAN CASE, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE MUSLIM UNITY MOVEMENT**

### **Explanation about *Nardaran case and Muslim Unity Movement***

There are arrested at different times and in different places and are the victims of political repressions of regime that brooks no dissent and criticism.

There are all residents of Nardaran village which is located 40 km from Baku, has low standards of living and acute unemployment problem. One of the most respected by Shiites mosques, founded in the 8th Century, is located in Nardaran. Nardaran differs from other Baku villages with its religiosity. In 2000, 2002, and 2006, the residents of Nardaran held peaceful protests with socio-economic demands. In June 2002, police carried out military operation in the village, as a result of which 28 people were injured, one died. 23 people were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment on falsified charges; in espionage in favour of Iran, in attempt of violent change of power, and etc. However, as a result of the active work of human rights defenders, none of them remained in the custody after 2005.

On 26 November 2015, there was another police operation in Nardaran. Armed with automatic weapons, the police entered the village and opened heavy fire. As a result, 6 people were killed, including two police officers. Dozens of citizens were arrested. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and General Prosecutor's Office issued the joint statement, in which they explained the use of firearms against the villagers as an operation necessary to neutralise a criminal armed group that functioned under a religious cover, which planned mass riots, terrorist acts and destabilisation of the socio-political situation in the republic.

On 19 July 2016, the trial of 18 defendants in the *Nardaran case* was held in the Baku Grave Crimes Court. During the trial all the accused testified that both the policemen and four residents of Nardaran were killed by the police officers. On the trial defendants informed that the police beaten them to death in a car in which they were transported to the Main Directorate for Combating Organized Crime (MDCOC) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The accused told about brutal tortures to which they were subjected in the MDCOC. All appeals of lawyers to the Prosecutor's Office to the need of investigation of the facts of tortures and crimes of law enforcement officers were ignored.

Tale Bagirzade testified that he was beaten and tortured more than 30 days so he testified against leader of the opposition Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan Ali Karimli and chairman of the National Council of Democratic Forces Jamil Hasanli.



During the trial in the Baku Grave Crimes Court, the accused refused the primary testimony given during the investigation, indicating that they had testified under torture.

The majority of those arrested had no lawyers, all witnesses against them were police, and many of believers were convicted without trial. But when conducting trials, there were no evidence against the accused presented at these trials.

**We divided political prisoners in so-called Nardaran case into three groups.**

**This group includes arrested on 26 November 2015 believers headed by the Chairman of the *Muslim Unity Movement* Tale Bagirzade**

### **53. Tale Bagirzade – Chairman of the *Muslim Unity Movement***



**Date of arrest:** 26 November 2015

**Charge:** Articles 28 (*Preparation to a crime*); 214.2.1 (*Preparation of terrorism, committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons, by organized group or criminal community (criminal organization)*); 214.2.3. (*Preparation of terrorism, committed with application of fire-arms or subjects used as a weapon*); 220.2 (*Appeals to active insubordination to legal requirements of representatives of authority and to mass disorders, as well as appeals to violence above citizens*); 228.4 (*Illegal purchase, selling or carrying of gas weapon, cold steel, including throwing weapon, except for districts where carrying of a cold steel is an accessory of a national suit or connected to hunting*) and 315.2 (*Resistance or application of violence concerning the representative of authority, committed with violence dangerous to life or health*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 19 May 2016, the investigation brought a new charges under articles 29 (*Attempt to a crime*), 120.2.1 (*Deliberate murder, committed by group of persons, on preliminary arrangement by group of persons, by organized group or criminal community*), 120.2.3 (*Deliberate murder of victims or his close relatives in connection with implementation of a given person of service activity or performance of public debt*), 120.2.4 (*Deliberate murder, committed with special cruelty or in publicly dangers way*), 120.2.7 (*Deliberate murder of two or more persons*) and 120.2.12 (*Deliberate murder on motive of national, racial, religious hatred or enmity*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 25 January 2017, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 20 years in prison

**Judge:** Alovzat Abbasov

**Place of detention:** Penal Colony № 12 at the settlement Puta in Baku City Qaradag District

**54. Jahad Balakishiyev** - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 26 November 2015

**Charge:** see articles charges Tale Bagirzade

**Sentence:** On 25 January 2017, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 14 years and 6 months in prison

**Judge:** Aloysat Abbasov

**Place of detention:** Penal Colony № 11 in Baku City Binagadi District

**55. Jabbar Jabbarov** - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 26 November 2015

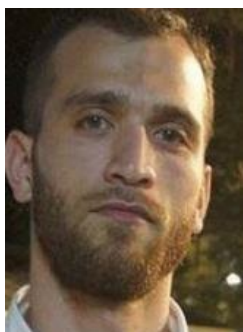
**Charge:** see articles charges Tale Bagirzade

**Sentence:** On 25 January 2017, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 19 years in prison

**Judge:** Aloysat Abbasov

**Place of detention:** Penal Colony № 11 in Baku City Binagadi District

**56. Abbas Huseynov** - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 26 November 2015

**Charge:** see articles charges Tale Bagirzade

**Sentence:** On 25 January 2017, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 20 years in prison

**Judge:** Aloysat Abbasov

**Place of detention:** Penitentiary Complex at Umbaki settlement in Baku City Qaradag District

## **This group includes believers arrested on Nardaran and other regions of Azerbaijan after 26 November 2015**

### **57. Hasan Mammadov**

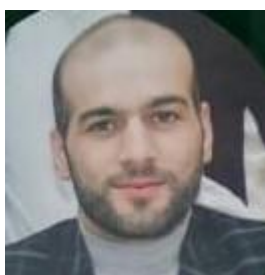
**Date of arrest:** 6 December 2015

**Charge:** Articles 214.2.1 (*Preparation of terrorism, committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons, by organized group or criminal community (criminal organization)*); 214.2.3 (*Preparation of terrorism, committed with application of fire-arms or subjects used as a weapon*); 214-2 (*Public calls for terrorism*); 220.2 (*Appeals to active insubordination to legal requirements of representatives of authority and to mass disorders, as well as appeals to violence above citizens*); 221.2.2 (*Committed with resistance to representative of the authority, acting as on protection of a social order or stopping infringement of a social order or with resistance to other person*); 228.3 (*Illegal purchase, transfer, selling, storage, transportation and carrying of fire-arms, accessories to it, supplies or explosives, committed by organized group*); 228.4 (*Illegal acquisition, selling or carrying of gas weapon, cold steel, including throwing weapon, except for districts where carrying of a cold steel is an accessory of a national suit or connected to hunting*); 279.1 (*Creation of armed formations or groups, which are not provided by the legislation of the Azerbaijan Republic, and also participation in their creation and activity, supplying them by weapon, ammunition, explosives, military engineering or military equipment*); 281.2 (*Public appeals directed against the state, committed repeatedly or by group of persons*); 283.2.3 (*Excitation of national, racial or religious hostility committed by person with use of the service position*) and 315.1 (*Application of violence, resistance with application of violence concerning the representative of authority in connection with performance of official duties by him or application of the violence not dangerous to life or health concerning his close relatives, as well as threat of application of such violence*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 6 December 2017, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 12 years and 3 months in prison

**Judge:** Zeynal Agayev

### **58. Seyfaddin Nurulla oglu Shirvanov - member of the Muslim Unity Movement**



**Date of arrest:** 9 December 2015

**Charge:** Articles 214.2.1 (*Preparation of terrorism, committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons, by organized group or criminal community (criminal organization)*); 214.2.3 (*Preparation of terrorism, committed with application of fire-arms or subjects used as a weapon*); 214-2 (*Public calls for terrorism*); 220.2 (*Appeals to active insubordination to legal requirements of representatives of authority and to mass disorders, as well as appeals to violence above citizens*); 228.3 (*Illegal purchase, transfer, selling, storage, transportation and carrying of fire-arms, accessories to it, supplies or explosives, committed by organized group*); 228.4 (*Illegal acquisition, selling or carrying of gas weapon, cold steel, including throwing weapon, except for*

*districts where carrying of a cold steel is an accessory of a national suit or connected to hunting); 233 (Organization of actions promoting infringement of a social order or active participation in such actions); 278 (Violent capture power or violent deduction power); 279.1 (Creation of armed formations or groups, which are not provided by the legislation of the Azerbaijan Republic, and also participation in their creation and activity, supplying them by weapon, ammunition, explosives, military engineering or military equipment); 281.2 (Public appeals directed against the state, committed repeatedly or by group of persons); 283.2.3 (Excitation of national, racial or religious hostility committed by person with use of the service position) and 315.1 (Application of violence, resistance with application of violence concerning the representative of authority in connection with performance of official duties by him or application of the violence not dangerous to life or health concerning his close relatives, as well as threat of application of such violence) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic*

**Sentence:** On 28 December 2017, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 12 years and 3 months in prison

**Judge:** Mail Bayramov

**Place of detention:** Penal Colony № 15 at the Boyuk Shor settlement in Baku City Nizami District

#### **59. Ahsan Nuruzade** - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 6 October 2017

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances, committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons or organized group in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 6 March 2018, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 7 years in prison

**Judge:** Sabuhi Huseynov

**Place of detention:** Penal Colony № 17 at the Bina settlement in Baku City Azizbayov District

#### **Conclusion:**

Ahsan Nuruzade actively participated in the protection of the rights of arrested members of the *Muslim Unity Movement*, assisted in covering of the trial in media and social networks. In 2016, twice was detained administratively. On 6 October 2017, A. Nuruzade was again detained in the courtyard of his house by persons in civilian clothes. Three days the lawyer appealed to the police and the courts, trying to establish his location. But only on the evening of 9 October 2017 official of the Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani confirmed that A. Nuruzade transferred to the pre-trial detention center.

## 60. Shamil Maharram oglu Hasanov - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 22 June 2020

**Charge:** Articles 167-3 (*Manufacture, storage, distribution of religious extremist materials or the financing of these acts*) and 228.1 (*Illegal purchase, transfer, selling, storage, transportation or carrying of fire-arms, accessories to it, supplies (except for the smooth-bore hunting weapon and ammunition to it), explosives*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 27 October 2020, the Baku City Binagadi District Court sentenced to 4,5 years in prison

**Judge:** Vusal Tagiyev

### **Conclusion:**

The Muslim Unity Movement activist has been seriously ill in recent years. His doctors detected a brain cancer, and he underwent a surgery. From now on he continues to undergo medical treatment, including the prescribed painkilling drugs. Despite of his illness, he is working a lot, as he has three young children.

According to his relatives, at around 5 p.m. on 22 June 2020, unknown people in civilian clothes broke into the house and took Shamil Hasanov away in an unspecified direction. Only the day after the relatives found out that he was held in the Main Department for Combating Organised Crime affiliated with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic. On 23 June 2020, the officers searched his house and found nothing. But it did not prevent to charge the believer with illegal possession of weapons.

At the trial Shamil Hasanov did not plead guilty on all charges and pointed out that he had become a victim of arbitrariness just because he was a member of the Muslim Unity Movement.

Shamil Hasanov is diagnosed with cancer, and had surgery to remove a brain tumor before his arrest.

## 61. Razi Karrar oglu Humbatov - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 7 July 2021

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

**Sentence:** On 20 May 2022, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 6 years in prison



**Place of detention:** Penal Colony № 2 at the Bina settlement in Baku City Azizbayov District

**Conclusion:**

As part of his political and public activities, Razi Humbatov led the fight against drug addiction, agitated young people for a healthy lifestyle, was very active. But any activity of members of the Muslim Unity Movement causes dissatisfaction with the authorities and activists of this movement are subjected to repression.

**62. Elman Suleyman oglu Sheydayev - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 14 February 2022

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 18 February 2022, the Baku City Narimanov District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Elman Sheydayev in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months.

**Sentence:** On 7 July 2023, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court issued a verdict against Elman Sheydayev: he was found guilty and sentenced to 7 years imprisonment in the penal colony of general regime.

**Judge:** Rahib Salmanov

**Place of detention:** Penal Colony № 6 at the Boyuk Shor settlement in Baku City Nizami District

**63. Elshan Sardar oglu Abbasov - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement***



**Date of arrest:** 3 March 2022

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 5 March 2022, the Baku City Narimanov District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Elshan Abbasov in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months

**Sentence:** On 30 August 2022, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court softened the charge and changed the Article from 234.4.3 to 234.1 (*Illegal purchase, storage, manufacturing, processing, transportation without a purpose of selling of narcotics or psychotropic substances in a quantity (amount) exceeding necessary for personal consumption*) and sentenced to 2 years in prison

**Conclusion:**

Elshan Abbasov, a member of the Muslim Unity Movement, worked in as a salesperson in a shop in Barda. According to him, on 3 March 2022, he was approached by the people in civilian clothes who said that they were officers of the Main Department for Combating Organised Crime, he said:

"I was taken to the Barda district police station. There, they put a drug in my hand and said that if I didn't agree to take it upon myself, then they would bring in my family and my brother would be sentenced instead of me. I had already been previously arrested on their orders, and four years ago I got familiar with their methods and knew that they would still bring that charge against me by the means of torture or anything else."

On 5 March 2022, he was brought to the Main Department for Combating Organised Crime of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and from there he was taken to the Baku Narimanov District Court, where he was imposed a 4-month preventive measure detention for the period of the investigation. According to Neimat Karimli, his lawyer, Elshan Abbasov's detention was then extended, and on 30 August, he was convicted for his religious views for the third time in the recent years.

**64. Mahir Yashar oglu Azimov - member of the Muslim Unity Movement**



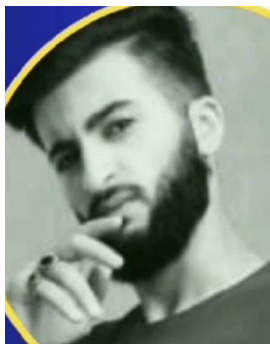
**Date of arrest:** 20 July 2022

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

**Sentence:** On 7 July 2023, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 4 years in prison

**Place of detention:** Penal Colony № 17 at the Bina settlement in Baku City Azizbayov District

## 65. Murad Azad oglu Yariyev - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 18 November 2022

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 18 November 2022, the Baku City Yasamal District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Eldaniz Agayev in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months.

On 18 November 2023, Murad Yariyev, a 20-year-old believer from the Jalilabad City was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 4 October 2023, the Baku City Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Murad Yariyev was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

## 66 . Shahin Qadirli - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 23 November 2022

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 23 November 2022, Shahin Qadirli was returning home from work and was detained at a bus stop by unknown civilian people and taken to an unknown destination. Later, after the court verdict on 26 November, the relatives learned that he was arrested by detained by the officers of the Main Department for Combating Organized Crime within the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

In the course of the trial held behind closed doors, Shahin Qadirli objected against his arrest and promised the Court that if a measure of restraint other than arrest would be chosen, then he will attend all the sessions.

On 25 November 2022, the Baku City Narimanov District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Shahin Qadirli in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months

**Sentence:** On 14 February 2023, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Shahin Qadirli was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**Judge:** Anar Sadiqov

#### **67. Nijat Aliniyaz oglu Aliyev - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement***



**Date of arrest:** 1 December 2022

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 1 December 2022, Nijat Aliyev was detained near his home in the village of Masazyr by civilians and taken away in an unknown direction without authorization and witnesses. Later, relatives learned that he was arrested by the police on charges of drug possession.

During the trial, Nijat Aliyev objected to the investigators' request to apply to him a preventive measure in the form of arrest.

On 2 December 2022, the Baku City Binagadi District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Nijat Aliyev in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months.

**Sentence:** On 22 September 2023, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 5 years in prison. On 13 December 2023, the Baku City Court of Appeal considered Nijat Aliyev's appeal and shortened his sentence to 4 years' imprisonment.

**Place of detention:** Penal Colony № 10 in Baku City Narimanov District

#### **68. Samir Abdulkhaliq oglu Babayev - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement***



**Date of arrest:** 2 December 2022

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 2 December 2022, Samir Babayev was detained near his home in the village of Mashtagha by civilians and taken away in an unknown direction without authorization and witnesses. Later, relatives learned that he was arrested by the police on charges of drug possession. On 2 December 2022, the Baku City Sabunchi District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Samir Babayev in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months.

On 5 April 2023, the Baku City Sabunchi District Court extended his arrest for another 4 months, and on 17 April, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes declined to release him on house arrest.

**Sentence:** On 19 October 2023, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 4 years in prison. On 9 January 2024, the Baku City Court of Appeal considered Samir Babayev's appeal and shortened his sentence to 3 years' imprisonment.

**Place of detention:** Penal Colony № 2 at the Bina settlement in Baku City Azizbayov District

**Conclusion:**

On 11 May 2023, the Baku Court of Serious Crimes, chaired by the Judge Eldar Ismayilov, heard the defendant's statement, in which he stated that the police officers of the Baku City Sabunchi District who had arrested and started beating him while he was still in the car. At the police station, they put drugs in front of him and told that they would capture a video while he would have to confess that he had purchased and distributed drugs:

"I replied that the drugs were not mine. Then they started beating me. Several people were relentlessly kicking me on my head and body. But I did not sign the plea."

Then an officer of the Main Department for Combating Organised Crime of the AR Ministry of Internal Affairs entered the room and told Samir Babayev, "If you don't sign this statement, we will also add that they have found a gun in your possession. But I replied that I would not accept any of this. Then they started beating my head against the wall." In his speech, the lawyer Fariz Namazly claimed that the Baku City Sabunchi Court ruling an order to arrest Samir Babayev on 2 December 2022 had remained indifferent to his account of torture.

## 69. Mirtofiq Mirjalal oglu Huseynov - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 4 December 2022

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 4 December 2022, Mirtofiq Huseynov was detained near his home at a bus stop by civilians and taken away in an unknown direction without authorization and witnesses. Later, relatives

learned that he was arrested by the police of Baku City Khazar District on charges of drug possession. He was brutally tortured in the police station in order to obtain the necessary for the investigation statements. But he refused to do that.

On 6 December 2022, the Baku City Khazar District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Mirtofiq Huseynov in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months.

Then, the Baku City Khazar District Court has extended his detention term repeatedly during the period of the investigation.

On December 27, 2023, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition, storage, manufacture, processing, transportation without purpose of sale of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances in significant quantities, committed in large amounts*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Mirtofiq Huseynov was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment.

**Judge:** Siyavush Hajiyev

## 70. Subhi Hajiaga oglu Aliyev – believer



**Date of arrest:** 10 December 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 10 December 2022, Subhi Aliyev was detained by the officers from the Main Department in charge of Combating Organised Crime within the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Azerbaijan.

On 13 December 2022, the Baku City Narimanov District court reclassified the charge from the Article 234.4.3 to 234.1-1 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic and sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center.

**Sentence:** On 25 July 2023, the Baku Court of Serious Crimes issued a verdict against S. Aliyev: he was found guilty of committing a crime under the Article 234.1-1 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic and sentenced him to a 4-year imprisonment term to be served in a general regime correctional institution.

On 19 October 2023, the Criminal Collegium of the Baku Court of Appeal issued a ruling: to dismiss the defence's appeal and leave the sentence of the Baku Court of Serious Crimes from 25 July 2023 intact.

### **Conclusion:**

Subhi Aliyev, interrogated at the first instance Court, did not plead guilty to the charge and made a disagreeing statement. Subhi Aliyev testified that three unknown people approached him when



he left a fitness center on 9 December 2022. They twisted his hands, forcibly put him in a car and brought him to the Department in charge of Combating Organised Crime at the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

While in the car, Subhi Aliyev was beaten with fists and asked what religious group he belonged to. Subhi Aliyev replied that he had not been a member of any religious organisation. Then he was asked about his practice of namaz (prayer) and whether he had ever met Tale Bagirzade (a political prisoner sentenced to 20 years in prison). S. Aliyev answered that he had been practicing namaz for a long time, and he had never known or connected to Tale Bagirzade. Nonetheless, he was handed a bag with drugs that he should pretend as his own one. S. Aliyev did not accept it, and as a result he was beaten by the officers of the Department.

He suffered from bruises on his abdomen and a swelling in the area of his ribs due to the brutal beatings. After that, they made a video recording, during which he had been given a bag with drugs. Unable to withstand the torture, Subhi Aliyev admitted it as his own.

#### **71. Elnur Jafarov** - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 25 January 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 25 January 2023, Elnur Jafarov was sentenced to 4 months in pre-trial detention

**Place of detention:** Penal Colony № 2 at the Bina settlement in Baku City Azizbayov District

#### **72. Azad Karimov** - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 30 January 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 30 January 2023, the Baku City Nasimi District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Azad Karimov in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months. On 11 May 2023, Gunay Abidova, the Nasimi District Court Judge, dismissed Zubeida Sadiqova's lawyer's petition to modify the measure of restraint to house arrest.

**Sentence:** On 27 February 2024, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Azad Karimov was sentenced to 3 years and 6 months of imprisonment

**73. Elshan Akif oglu Rahimov** - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 31 January 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 31 January 2023, Elshan Rahimov was sentenced to 4 months in pre-trial detention

**Sentence:** On 2 February 2024, the Baku City Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Elshan Rahimov was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**Judge:** Elnur Valiyev

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 3 at the Shuvelyan settlement in Baku City Khazar District

**74. Rza Aliabbas oglu Alakbarov** – theologian



**Date of arrest:** 30 January 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 31 January 2023, Rza Alakbarov, famous theologian and inhabitant from the Sabirabad City was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 13 February 2024, the Lankaran City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 3 years and 6 months in prison

#### **75. Ruhulla Masim oglu Novruzzade** – head of the “Mizan” Education Center



**Date of arrest:** 31 January 2023

**Charge:** Articles 234.1 (*Illegal purchase, storage, manufacturing, processing, transportation without a purpose of selling of narcotics or psychotropic substances in a quantity (amount) exceeding necessary for personal consumption*) and 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 31 January 2023, Ruhulla Novruzzade was detained by civilians and taken away in an unknown direction without authorization and witnesses. Later, relatives learned that he was arrested by the police on charges of drug possession.

On 1 February 2023, the Baku City Surakhani District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Ruhulla Novruzzade in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months. On 10 February 2023, the Baku Appeal Court upheld the decision of the Surakhani District Court.

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 3 at the Shuvelyan settlement in Baku City Khazar District

#### **76. Ramil Hajibaba oglu Mammadov** - believer



**Date of arrest:** 31 January 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 31 January 2023, Ramil Mammadov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center  
**Sentence:** On 1 February 2024, the Lankaran City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 6 years in prison

**Judge:** Ali Aliyev

#### 77. Matlab Sharaf oglu Ahmadov - believer



**Date of arrest:** 31 January 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 31 January 2023, Matlab Ahmadov, inhabitant from Shamkir district was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 2 of the Ganja City

#### 78. Ilqar Ryadzov – theologian



**Date of arrest:** 2 February 2023

**Charge:** Articles 167-1 (*Forcing to confession or financing of committing these acts on the grounds of religious animosity, religious radicalism or religious fanaticism*) and 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 2 February 2023, Ilqar Ryadzov was sentenced to 4 months in pre-trial detention

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

#### **Conclusion:**

Ilqar Ryadzov, a well-known theologian of Azerbaijan, told the following about his arrest to his family over the phone:

«The police detained me at noon on February 1, 2023, and openly, in front of my eyes, put drugs in my pocket. The officer who detained me told me that I had to accept either charges of using and selling drugs or of spying for Iran, as I had studied in Qom, Iran, about 20-30 years ago. And he advised me to accept the first charge, for then I would be imprisoned for three to six years, otherwise I would face 20-year-period imprisonment for being a spy».

Finally, the theologian pointed out that he had been arrested due to the recent deterioration of Azerbaijani-Iranian relations».

**79. Matlab Bagirov** – theologian, founder and the Head of the *SalamNews* Agency as well as the Internet channel *Interaz TV*.



**Date of arrest:** 1 February 2023

**Charge:** Articles 234.4.1 (*Illegal purchase, storage, manufacturing, processing, transportation without a purpose of selling of narcotics or psychotropic substances in a quantity (amount) exceeding necessary for personal consumption*) and 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 1 February 2023, Matlab Bagirov was sentenced to 4 months in pre-trial detention

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**80. Seymur Rzayev** - theologian



**Date of arrest:** 1 February 2023

**Charge:** Articles 234.4.1 (*Illegal purchase, storage, manufacturing, processing, transportation without a purpose of selling of narcotics or psychotropic substances in a quantity (amount) exceeding necessary for personal consumption*) and 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 1 February 2023, Seyran Rzayev was sentenced to 4 months in pre-trial detention

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

## 81. Mail Kamal oglu Karimov - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 2 February 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 13 January 2023, Mail Karimov took part in the celebration of the 8th anniversary of the formation of the *Muslim Unity Movement* together with his family. The police of the Baku City Khazar District considered this festive ceremony as a religious meeting and on 14 January sent materials on the case of Mail Karimov to the court. On 26 January 2023, Mail Karimov testified in the Baku City Khazar District Court. The next court session was scheduled on 2 February 2023. But when Mail Karimov arrived at the court on 2 February, he was arrested by officers of the 14th Police Department. Only after two days his family learns about the arrest of Mail Karimov and the initiation of a criminal case against him.

On 2 February 2023, the Baku City Khazar District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Mail Karimov in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months.

**Sentence:** On 7 March 2024, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Mail Karimov was sentenced to 4 years of imprisonment

**Judge:** Mahmud Agalarov

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

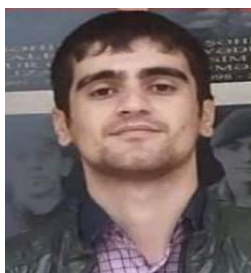
### **Conclusion:**

Activist of the *Muslim Unity Movement* Mail Karimov has been arrested several times recently. He was among five believers who were detained by the police on 20 May 2022 and sentenced to 30 days of administrative arrest. After his release, at a press conference Mail Karimov told about the torture at the police station and the attempt to rape him. And after the end of his sentence, the police openly warned him that if he will continue activity at the movement's events, he would be arrested on drug charges.

On 7 February 2023, after the arrest of Mail Karimov, the police searched his home. During the search, the police tried to plant religious leaflets and photos of Ayatollah Khamenei and other leaders of Iran. However, Mail Karimov's wife began filming the search on her phone. The police tried to take her phone away from her, but the children intervened and did not allow the police to throw something.



**82. Rashad Aliyev** - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 2 February 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 2 February 2023, Rashad Aliyev was sentenced to 4 months in pre-trial detention

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**83. Sadiq Hasanov** - believer



**Date of arrest:** 2 February 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 2 February 2023, Sadiq Hasanov, a resident of Masally City, was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 15 June 2023, the Lankaran District Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 5 years in prison

**84. Jeyhun Arif oglu Babashov** - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 2 February 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 3 February 2023, Jeyhun Balashov was detained by the officers of Beylaqan District Police Department. The same day, the Beylaqan District Court sentenced him to 4 months' imprisonment in the pre-trial detention center for the period of preliminary investigation.

**Sentence:** On 15 February 2024, the Lankaran Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Jeyhun Balashov was sentenced to 4 years of imprisonment. Nevertheless, taking into account the serious health condition of the detainee, the Court imposed on him the Article 62 of the AR Criminal Code, which stipulates that the punishment should be more lenient than prescribed in the Article, and substituted a real term of imprisonment with a punishment in the form of restricted freedom for the period of 2 years 10 months and 18 days, which Balashov should spend under the police supervision.

**Conclusion:**

The police forced Jeyhun Balashov to plead guilty of drug possession and constantly subjected him to torture. Having failed to achieve their goal, the police simply slipped the drugs in and recorded it. On 11 July 2023, when the trial began in the Lankaran City Court for Serious Crimes, J. Balashov denied the charges and claimed that the police had slipped the drugs into his hands. Following the trial, the enraged police officers subjected Jeyhun to brutal beatings for many hours. His health condition drastically deteriorated and he was admitted to the Azerbaijan Penitentiary Service hospital on the same day. On July 15, his son visited him and then told the journalists that the warders had broken his father's arm and his whole body was covered with bruises.

On 23 August 2023, Balashov's state worsened abruptly due to torture, he suffered a hematoma in his brain, lost consciousness and was connected to an artificial respiration machine. The same day, the Lankaran City Court for Serious Crimes ordered to change the preventive measure and place him under house arrest and supervision of the police, as well as for treatment in a civilian clinic. Despite the medical treatment Jeyhun Balashov has received, he still has serious health problems. As his lawyer, Rasul Jafarov, stated,

"In spite of the treatment he has received, he still has problems with his lungs and blood circulation in the brain."

And yet, in early 2024, the trial continued and verdict was issued to the defendant, and all allegations of torture were ignored by the Court.

**85. Aliqiyam Alam oglu Alishanov – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 2 February 2023

**Charge:** Articles 167-3.1 (*Manufacture, storage or distribution of religious extremist materials, i.e. materials calling for the implementation of religious extremist activities or justifying such activity, either justifying the need for such activities*) and 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 2 February 2023, Aliqiyam Alishanov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

#### **86. Etibar Rasim oglu Ismayilov - member of the Muslim Unity Movement**



**Date of arrest:** 2 February 2023

**Charge:** Articles 228.1 (*Illegal purchase, transfer, selling, storage, transportation or carrying of fire-arms, accessories to it, supplies, explosives*) and 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 1 February 2023, the Baku City Sabunchi District Court sentenced Etibar Ismayilov, a resident of Mashtaga settlement to 4 months in pre-trial detention. Then, the Baku City Sabunchi District Court has extended his detention term repeatedly during the period of the investigation.

**Sentence:** On 1 November 2023, the Baku City Grave Crimes sentenced to 9 years and 9 months in prison.

**Judge:** Azad Majidov

**Place of detention:** Penal Colony № 13 at the Buta settlement in Baku City Qaradag District

#### **87. Parviz Niyaz oglu Abdullayev - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 3 February 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 3 February 2023, the Sabirabad District Court sentenced Parviz Abdullayev to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

#### 88. Dzhamir Alimusa oglu Agayev - theologian



**Date of arrest:** 6 February 2023

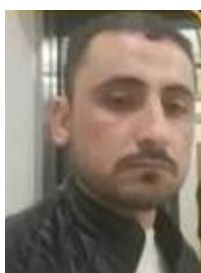
**Charge:** Articles 234.1 (*Illegal purchase, storage, manufacturing, processing, transportation without a purpose of selling of narcotics or psychotropic substances in a quantity (amount) exceeding necessary for personal consumption*) and 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Jamir Agayev, a well-known theologian in the south, has been under the police surveillance in the Jalilabad district since the end of last year. On 6 February 2023, Jamir Agayev was sentenced to 4 months in pre-trial detention

**Sentence:** On 2 February 2024, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes sentenced Dzhamir Agayev to a 3-year imprisonment.

**Judge:** Faiq Qaniyev

#### 89. Fadayil Idris oglu Shukurov - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 1 March 2023

**Charge:** Articles 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) and 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 1 March 2023, Fadayil Shukurov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**90. Mansur Agabala oglu Valishov** - theologian



**Date of arrest:** 9 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 9 March 2023, Mansur Valishov was sentenced to 4 months in pre-trial detention.

**Sentence:** On 20 October 2023, the Lankaran City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 6 years in prison

**91. Murad Afaraga oglu Abdullayev** - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



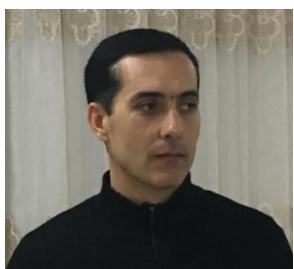
**Date of arrest:** 9 March 2023

**Charge:** 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition, storage, manufacture, processing, transportation without purpose of sale of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances in significant quantities, committed in large amounts*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 9 March 2023, Murad Abdullayev was detained by the officers of the 27th Police Station of Yasamal District. On the same day, the Baku City Yasamal District Court sentenced Murad Abdullayev to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center. On 10 May 2023, Farid Eyubov, a Judge of the Baku Court of Appeal dismissed Zubeida Sadiqova's lawyer's petition to modify the measure of restraint to house arrest.

**Sentence:** On 28 November 2023, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 3 years in prison

**92. Rza Ismayil oglu Rzayev** - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 9 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 9 March 2023, Rza Rzayev was sentenced to 4 months in pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

### 93. Mehman Fataliyev - believer



**Date of arrest:** 9 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 9 March 2023, Mehman Fataliyev was sentenced to 4 months in pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 25 January 2024, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the AR Criminal Code. And afterwards Mehman Fataliyev was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment.

**Judge:** Ahmad Quliyev

### 94. Bakhtiyar Bakhish oglu Babashov - believer



**Date of arrest:** 9 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 9 March 2023, Bakhtiyar Babashov was grabbed by unidentified people on the street and taken to an unknown location. On 11 March 2023, he was brought to the Narimanov District Court, where he was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center.

On 1 May 2023, Ramin Qaraqurbanly, a Judge of the Baku Court of Appeal, dismissed Zubeida Sadiqova's lawyer's petition to release her under a house arrest.



**Sentence:** On 18 October 2023, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the AR Criminal Code. And afterwards Bakhtiyar Babashov was sentenced to 4 years of imprisonment.

**Judge:** Faiq Qaniyev

#### 95. Nahid Qahramanli - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 9 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 9 March 2023, Nahid Qahramanli was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

#### 96. Bahruz Adil oglu Karimov - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 9 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 9 March 2023, the Baku City Nasimi District Court sentenced Bahruz Karimov to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 20 February 2024, the Baku City Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding*

*the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the AR Criminal Code. And afterwards Bahruz Karimov was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment  
**Judge:** Samir Aliyev

**97. Amal Alamdar oglu Ahmadov - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 9 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 9 March 2023, Amal Ahmadov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**98. Shahin Samandar oglu Verdiyev – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 9 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 9 March 2023, Shahin Verdiyev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 2 of the Ganja City

**99. Ulvi Aliyev – believer**

**Date of arrest:** 9 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 9 March 2023, Ulvi Aliyev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 29 January 2024, the Lankaran City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 3 years and 6 months in prison

**100. Maarif Ali oglu Agayev - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 10 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 10 March 2023, Maarif Agayev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 11 March 2024, the Baku City Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Maarif Agayev was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**101. Ilqar Sabir oglu Musayev - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 10 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 10 March 2023, Ilqar Musayev, inhabitant of the Ganja City, was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 2 of the Ganja City

### 102. Eldaniz Fatulla oglu Agayev – believer



**Date of arrest:** 10 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 10 March 2023, Eldaniz Agayev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 25 October 2023, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the AR Criminal Code. And afterwards Eldaniz Agayev was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**Place of detention:** Penal Colony № 17 at the Bina settlement in Baku City Azizbayov District

### 103. Jeyhun Alovzat oglu Ilyasov – believer



**Date of arrest:** 10 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 10 March 2023, Jeyhun Ilyasov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 7 November 2023, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the AR Criminal Code. And afterwards Jeyhun Ilyasov was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**Place of detention:** Penal Colony № 17 at the Bina settlement in Baku City Azizbayov District

**104. Eldaniz Agayev – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 10 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 10 March 2023, the Baku City Yasamal District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Eldaniz Agayev in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months.

**Sentence:** On 21 December 2023, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court issued a verdict against Eldaniz Agayev: he was found guilty and sentenced to 3-year- imprisonment in the penal colony of general regime.

**Place of detention:** Penal Colony N 17 in Baku City Khazar District

**105. Jeyhun Ilyasov – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 10 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 10 March 2023, the Baku City Qaradag District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Jeyhun Ilyasov in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months.

**Sentence:** On 21 December 2023, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court issued a verdict against Jeyhun Ilyasov: he was found guilty and sentenced to 3-year- imprisonment in the penal colony of general regime.

**Place of detention:** Penal Colony N 17 in Baku City Khazar District

**106. Hilal Yaqub oglu Asadov - theologian**



**Арестован:** 10 марта 2023 г.

**Date of arrest:** 10 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 10 March 2023, Hilal Asadov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 26 November 2023, the Sumqayit City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 5 years in prison

**107. Elvin Ahliman oglu Quliyev - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement***



**Date of arrest:** 10 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 10 March 2023, Elvin Quliyev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 1 February 2024, the Lankaran City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 5 years in prison

**Judge:** Mushfiq Mammadov

**108. Ismayil Nizami oglu Ismayilov - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement***





**Date of arrest:** 10 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 10 March 2023, the Lankaran District Court sentenced Ismayil Ismayilov, inhabitant of the Beylaqan City, to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center. Then, the Lankaran District Court has extended his detention term repeatedly during the period of the investigation.

**Sentence:** On 9 January 2024, the Lankaran City Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the AR Criminal Code. And afterwards Ismayil Ismayilov was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment.

#### **109. Vusal Nadir oğlu Alishov - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement***



**Date of arrest:** 10 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 11 March 2023, Vusal Alishov, inhabitant of the Hasanabad settlement of the Neftchala district was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 21 February 2024, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 6 years in prison

#### **110. Rustam Tanriverdi oğlu Ismayilov – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 10 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 10 March 2023, Rustam Ismayilov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**111. Anar Oruj oglu Khalilov** - believer



**Date of arrest:** 10 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 10 March 2023, Anar Khalilov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**112. Khasil Rustamov** - believer



**Date of arrest:** 10 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 10 March 2023, Khasil Rustamov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**113. Samir Nasim oglu Isayev** - believer



**Date of arrest:** 12 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 12 March 2023, Samir Isayev was sentenced to 4 months in pre-trial detention

**Sentence:** On 2 February 2024, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 5 years and 4 months in prison

#### **114. Tural Famil oglu Valiyev - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement***



**Date of arrest:** 12 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 12 March 2024, Tural Valiyev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 5 February 2024, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 4 years and 3 months in prison

**Judge:** Ali Mammadov

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 3 at the Shuvelyan settlement in Baku City Khazar District

#### **115. Nizami Elkhan oglu Ahmadov - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement***



**Date of arrest:** 12 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 12 March 2023, Nizami Ahmadov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**Sentence:** On 23 November 2023, the Lankaran City Court for Serious Crimes sentenced to a 3 years and 8 months in prison imprisonment

**116. Sakif Agabalayev - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 12 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 12 March 2023, Sakif Agabalayev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**117. Elvin Nasirov – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 12 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 12 March 2023, Elvin Nasirov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**118. Nihat Khalilov - believer**

**Date of arrest:** 12 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 12 March 2023, Nihat Khalilov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**119. Elnur Meybullayev - believer**

**Date of arrest:** 12 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 12 March 2023, Elnur Meybullayev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**120. Tural Hasanov** - believer

**Date of arrest:** 12 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 12 March 2023, Tural Hasanov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**121. Nariman Khanlar oglu Bakhishov** – believer



**Date of arrest:** 12 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 12 March 2023, Nariman Bakhishov, inhabitant of the Ganja City, was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 2 of the Ganja City

**122. Rahid Ibishov** – believer

**Date of arrest:** 12 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 12 March 2023, Rahid Ibishov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**123. Rovshan Jabbarov** – believer



**Date of arrest:** 12 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 12 March 2023, Rovshan Jabbarov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**Sentence:** Sentenced to 3 years in prison

#### 124. Imran Alaskarov – believer



**Date of arrest:** 12 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 12 March 2023, Imran Alaskarov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 24 November 2023, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the AR Criminal Code. And afterwards Imran Alaskarov was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

#### 125. Rashad Farajov - believer



**Date of arrest:** 13 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 13 March 2023, Rashad Farajov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani



**126. Bahruz Quliyev** - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 15 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 15 March 2023, Bahruz Quliyev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**127. Vugar Mahammad oglu Huseynov** – believer



**Date of arrest:** 15 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 15 March 2023, Vugar Huseynov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 15 January 2024, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the AR Criminal Code. And afterwards Vugar Huseynov was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**Judge:** Telman Huseynov

**128. Shamil Adil oglu Abdulaliyev** - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 15 March 2023

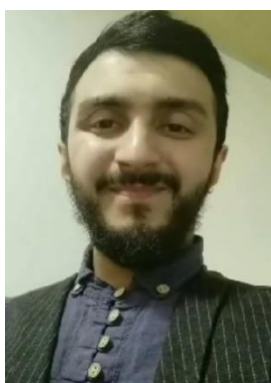
**Charge:** Articles 234.4.1 (*Illegal purchase, storage, manufacturing, processing, transportation without a purpose of selling of narcotics or psychotropic substances in a quantity (amount) exceeding necessary for personal consumption*) and 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 15 March 2023, Shamil Abdulaliyev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 7 March 2024, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Articles of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Shamil Abdulaliyev was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**Judge:** Sabina Mammadzade

**129. Javid Maharram oglu Allahverdiyev** - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 15 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 15 March 2023, Javid Allahverdiyev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 18 October 2023, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the AR Criminal Code. And afterwards Javid Allahverdiyev was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

### 130. Afiq Sabir oglu Qurbanov – believer



**Date of arrest:** 16 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 17 March 2023, Afiq Qurbanov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 18 January 2024, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the AR Criminal Code. And afterwards Afiq Qurbanov was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**Judge:** Rasim Sadiqov

### 131. Elchin Zeynalov - member of the Muslim Unity Movement



**Date of arrest:** 17 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 17 March 2023, Elchin Zeynalov, inhabitant of the Sumgayit City was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 2 February 2024, the Sumgayit Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the AR Criminal Code. And afterwards Elchin Zeynalov was sentenced to 4 years of imprisonment

**132. Mushfiq Jafarov** – believer



**Date of arrest:** 23 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 23 March 2023, Mushfiq Jafarov, inhabitant of the village Bala Khashimli from the Sabirabad District was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**133. Ilham Shikhaliyev** – believer



**Date of arrest:** 27 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 27 March 2023, Ilham Shikhaliyev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**134. Ilkin Bagirov** – believer



**Date of arrest:** 27 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 27 March 2023, Ilkin Bagirov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**135. Vusal Asgarov – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 27 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 27 March 2023, Vusal Asgarov, inhabitant from the Shamkir district was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**136. Rufat Faiq oğlu Qurbanov – believer**



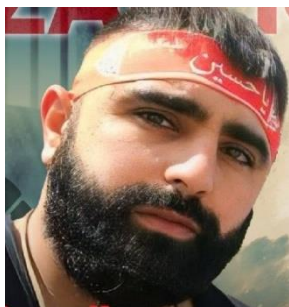
**Date of arrest:** 27 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 27 March 2023, Rufat Qurbanov, inhabitant from the Barda district was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 2 of the Ganja City

**137. Ilkin Suleymanov** – believer



**Date of arrest:** 28 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 28 March 2023, Ilkin Suleymanov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center.

**Sentence:** On 6 December 2023, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court issued a verdict against Ilkin Suleymanov: he was found guilty and sentenced to 3-year- imprisonment in the penal colony of general regime.

**138. Ali Arif oglu Aslanov** - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 29 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 29 March 2023, Ali Aslanov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 13 March 2024, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 1 years and 6 months in prison.

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**139. Nijat Sardar oglu Agayev** - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*





**Date of arrest:** 29 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 29 March 2023, Nijat Agayev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 3 at the Shuvelyan settlement in Baku City Khazar District

#### 140. Shahin Alimardan oglu Bagirov - believer



**Date of arrest:** 29 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

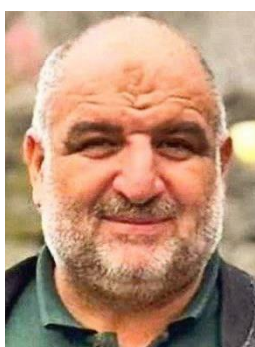
On 29 March 2023, Shahin Bagirov, a resident of Masally, was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 12 June 2023, the Lankaran District Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 5 years in prison

**Judge:** Mushfiq Mammadov

**Place of detention:** Penal Colony № 17 at the Bina settlement in Baku City Azizbayov District

#### 141. Karim Salah oglu Salahov – believer



**Date of arrest:** 29 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 29 March 2023, Huseyn Qasimov, inhabitant of the Yeni Gunashli settlement of the Baku City was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 29 February 2024, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge

substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Karim Salahov was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**Judge:** Siyavush Hajiyeu

#### 142. Akif Huseynli – believer



**Date of arrest:** 29 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 29 March 2023, Akif Huseynli, inhabitant from the Astara district was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

#### 143. Mahmudaga Qara oğlu Agayev – believer



**Date of arrest:** 29 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 29 March 2023, Mahmudaga Agayev, inhabitant of the village Qizilavar from the Astara district was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 5 December 2023, the Lankaran City Court on Serious Crimes sentenced to 5 years imprisonment to be served in a penal colony of general regime.

#### 144. Aydin Vaqif oglu Aliyev - believer



**Date of arrest:** 29 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 2 April 2023, Aydin Aliyev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**Sentence:** On 24 October 2023, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Aydin Aliyev was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**Judge:** Shalala Hasanova

#### 145. Qoshqar Hasanov – believer

**Date of arrest:** 30 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 30 March 2023, Qoshqar Hasanov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 14 January 2024, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the AR Criminal Code. And afterwards Qoshqar Hasanov was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**146. Yasin Taptiq oglu Ahmadov - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement***



**Date of arrest:** 30 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 30 March 2023, Yasin Ahmadov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 2 December 2023, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Yasin Ahmadov was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**Judge:** Sabina Mammadova

**147. Elsevar Rahmat oglu Hajiyev – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 31 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 31 March 2023, Elsevar Hajiyev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 26 January 2024, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Elsevar Hajiyev was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**Judge:** Vuqar Quliyev

**148. Agalar Mirzajan oglu Agayev – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 31 March 2023

**Charge:** Articles 167-3.1 (*Manufacture, storage or distribution of religious extremist materials, i.e. materials calling for the implementation of religious extremist activities or justifying such activity, either justifying the need for such activities*) and 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 31 March 2023, Agalar Agayev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 9 February 2024, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 3 years and 6 months in prison

**149. Anar Sholaliyev – believer**

**Date of arrest:** 31 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 31 March 2023, Anar Sholaliyev, inhabitant of the village Morul from the Shamkir district was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**150. Rza Karimov – believer**

**Date of arrest:** 31 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 31 March 2023, Rza Karimov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**151. Khayal Qasymov – believer**

**Date of arrest:** 31 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 31 March 2023, Khayal Qasimov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

### 152. Siyasat Bagirov - theologian



**Date of arrest:** 31 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 31 March 2023, Siyasat Bagirov, a resident of Neftchala district, one of the well-known theologians with the religious status of "*hujjat-ul-Islam*" (the only higher status among Shiites is that of an ayatollah) was arrested and the same day sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 19 December 2023, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Siyasat Bagirov was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**Judge:** Fakhri Mammadov

### 153. Vasif Abbasov – believer



**Date of arrest:** 31 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 31 March 2023, Vasif Abbasov, inhabitant from Lankaran district was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 22 June 2023, the Lankaran City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 5 years and 6 months in prison



**154. Ruslan Mukhtar oglu Agayev – theolog**



**Date of arrest:** 31 March 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 31 March 2023, Ruslan Agayev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**155. Bakhtiyar Isazade – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 1 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 1 April 2023, the Baku City Sabunchi District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Jeyhun Ilyasov in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months.

**Sentence:** On 21 December 2023, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court issued a verdict against Bakhtiyar Isazade: he was found guilty and sentenced to 3-year- imprisonment in the penal colony of general regime.

**Place of detention:** Penal Colony N 17 in Baku City Khazar District

**156. Aliakbar Israfil oglu Sadiqov - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement***



**Date of arrest:** 1 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 1 April 2023, Aliakbar Sadiqov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 2 February 2024, the Sumqayit Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Aliakbar Sadiqov was sentenced to 4 years of imprisonment

**Judge:** Nahid Mirzayev

### 157. Bakhtiyar Nizami oglu Isazade - believer



**Date of arrest:** 1 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 1 April 2023, Bakhtiyar Isazade was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 2 December 2023, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Bakhtiyar Isazade was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**Place of detention:** Penal Colony № 17 at the Bina settlement in Baku City Azizbayov District

### 158. Kamil Mahmudov - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 2 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 2 April 2023, Kamil Mahmudov Sadigov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 27 November 2023, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 4 years and 3 months in prison

**Judge:** Ali Mammadov

**159. Ilyas Tofiq oglu Qasimov - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement***



**Date of arrest:** 2 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 2 April 2023, Ilyas Qasimov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 2 November 2023, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 5 years in prison

**160. Namet Sakit oglu Israfilov – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 2 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 4 April 2023, Namet Israfilov, inhabitant of the Shahsoltanli village of the Goychay District was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center for the duration of the preliminary investigation

**Sentence:** On 15 November 2023, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Namet Israfilov was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**Judge:** Shalala Hasanova

**161. Elnur Quliyev** – believer

**Date of arrest:** 3 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 3 April 2023, Elnur Quliyev, inhabitant of the settlement Fatmai near the Baku City was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**162. Saleh Ali oglu Khamzayev** - believer



**Date of arrest:** 4 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 4 April 2023, Saleh Khamzayev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**163. Bakhtiyar Hajiyeu** – believer



**Date of arrest:** 4 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.1 (*Illegal purchase or storage without a purpose of selling of narcotics or psychotropic substances in a quantity (amount) exceeding necessary for personal consumption*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 4 April 2023, Bakhtiyar Hajiyev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 28 February 2024, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 1 year in prison.

#### 164. Elshad Vaqif oglu Mammadov – believer



**Date of arrest:** 4 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 6 April 2023, Elshad Mammadov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 21 February 2024, the Baku City Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Elshad Mammadov was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**Judge:** Novruz Karimov

#### 165. Natiq Murvat oglu Aliyev – believer



**Date of arrest:** 5 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 9 April 2023, Natiq Aliyev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 3 at the Shuvelyan settlement in Baku City Khazar District

#### 166. Telman Asadullayev – theologian



**Date of arrest:** 5 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 5 April 2023, Telman Asadullayev, akhund of the "Juma" mosque in Hojasan settlement on the outskirts of Baku, was sentenced to 4 months' imprisonment in a pre-trial detention by the Baku Binagadi District Court for the period of preliminary investigation. On 21 September 2023, the first hearing was held in the Baku Court of Serious Crimes.

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

#### **Conclusion:**

The well-known 48-year-old theologian Telman Asadullayev said at a hearing in the Baku City Court for Serious Crimes that on 5 April 2023, the police came to his mosque and took him to the 40th Police Station of the Baku Binagadi district. There, according to the theologian, he was given a choice: either to admit that he had had in his possession firearms or drugs. Otherwise, he would be accused of plotting the attack on MP Fazil Mustafa, which took place on 28 March 2023. The theologian replied that he hadn't had any weapons, had never smoked or drunk, and therefore would not take anything offered to him by the police officers of the 40th Police Department of Binagadi District of Baku. In response, the policemen threatened to rape him. After such a threat, the theologian could not bear it and signed a statement that he had allegedly bought drugs for himself.

#### 167. Bahruz Hajiyev - believer



**Date of arrest:** 5 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 5 April 2023, Bahruz Hajiyev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani



**168. Ali Ali oglu Aliyev (Ali Bekhisti) - theologian**



**Date of arrest:** 6 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 274 (*High treason*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 6 April 2023, Ali Bekhisti, famous theologian and inhabitant from the Bina settlement was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 29 January 2024, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 15 years in prison

**Judge:** Azar Taqiyev

**169. Elkhan Ismayilov - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement***



**Date of arrest:** 7 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 7 April 2023, Elkhan Ismayilov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**170. Natiq Firudin oglu Qasimov - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement***



**Date of arrest:** 7 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 9 April 2023, the Baku City Sabunchi District Court sentenced Natiq Qasimov to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center. On 10 May 2023, the Baku City Sabunchi District Court Judge, Niqar Imanova, rejected the petition of the lawyer Zubeida Sadiqova to modify the measure of restraint to house arrest.

**Sentence:** On 30 November 2023, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Natiq Qasimov was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**Judge:** Ahmad Quliyev

#### **171. Telman Huseyn oglu Rashidov - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement***



**Date of arrest:** 8 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 8 April 2023, Telman Rashidov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 30 October 2023, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Telman Rashidov was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

#### **172. Javanshir Yahyayev – theologian**



**Date of arrest:** 8 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 8 April 2023, Javanshir Yahyayev, inhabitant of the Bina settlement was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 23 February 2024, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Javanshir Yahyayev was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

### 173. Elsevar Eldar oglu Isayev - believer



**Date of arrest:** 8 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 9 April 2023, Elsevar Isayev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**Sentence:** On 10 February 2024, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Elsevar Isayev was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

### 174. Kanan Seyfaddin oglu Gojayev – believer



**Date of arrest:** 8 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 8 April 2023, the Baku City inhabitant Kanan Gojayev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 25 October 2023, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Kanan Qojayev was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

#### 175. Aladdin Ibishov - theologian



**Date of arrest:** 9 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 9 April 2023, Aladdin Ibishov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 4 December 2023, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 3 years in prison.

#### 176. Niyamaddin Bahaddin oglu Huseynov – believer



**Date of arrest:** 9 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 9 April 2023, the Baku City Nizami District Court sentenced Niyamaddin Huseynov to a 4-month-term of imprisonment for the period of the preliminary investigation in a pre-trial detention center. The same Court further extended the deprivation of liberty for the period of preliminary investigation.

**Sentence:** On 18 Decemner 2023, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court issued a verdict against Niyamaddin Huseynov: he was found guilty and sentenced to 3-year- imprisonment in the penal colony of general regime.

**Judge:** Farid Namazov

***Conclusion:***

Niyamaddin Huseynov, a believer residing in Shirvan city, was renting a flat and working as a manual laborer in Baku. On 9 April 2023, when he was leaving the Imam Zaman Mosque where he had prayed, he was detained by the police and taken to the 24th Nizami District Police Station. His relatives were not aware of his arrest and whereabouts for a long time, although they first of all contacted the very same police station.

Niyamaddin Huseynov stated at the final trial that the police told him:

"You are not a theologian or a clergyman but this does not concern us. We have been instructed to arrest and convict. You have two options: either agree to become an 'Iranian agent and traitor to the motherland' or you would be charged on drugs. Allegedly, the police found some drugs in my pocket, which I had purchased for sale from a unknown for me Iranian citizen."

**177. Bakhtiyar Novruzov** - – believer



**Date of arrest:** 9 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 9 April 2023, the Baku City Sabunchi District Court issued a ruling: to apply a preventive measure against Bakhtiyar Novruzov in the form of arrest for a period of 4 months

**Sentence:** On 15 Decemner 2023, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court issued a verdict against Bakhtiyar Novruzov: he was found guilty and sentenced to 3-year- imprisonment in the penal colony of general regime.

**Judge:** Vugar Quliyev

**178. Arif Fataliyev - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 10 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 11 April 2023, Arif Fataliyev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 8 November 2023, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Arif Fataliyev was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**179. Vusal Ramiz oglu Manafov - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 10 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 10 April 2023, Vusal Manafov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 16 November 2023, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Vusal Manafov was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**Judge:** Mahira Karimova



**180. Mehman Elzamin oglu Qarayev - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement***



**Date of arrest:** 11 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 11 April 2023, Mehman Qarayev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 3 at the Shuvelyan settlement in Baku City Khazar District

**181. Kanan Yusifzade - believer**



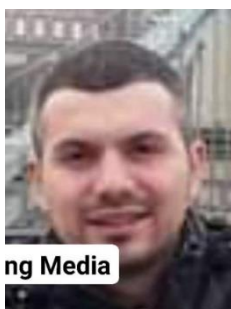
**Date of arrest:** 11 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 11 April 2023, Kanan Yusifzade was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**182. Seyid Javad - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 11 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 11 April 2023, Seyid Javad was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

### 183. Vugar Suleymanov - believer



**Date of arrest:** 11 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 11 April 2023, Vugar Suleymanov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

### 184. Sarvar Aflatun oglu Aliyev – believer



**Date of arrest:** 11 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 11 April 2023, Sarvar Aliyev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 1 December 2023, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Sarvar Aliyev was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**185. Mohubbat Aslanov - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement***



**Date of arrest:** 15 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 15 April 2023, Mohubbat Aslanov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**186. Agasaf Khurshidov – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 17 April 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 17 April 2023, Agasaf Khurshidov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 2 February 2024, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Agasaf Khurshidov was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 3 at the Shuvelyan settlement in Baku City Khazar District

**187. Edgar Mahir oglu Osmanov - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 12 May 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 15 May 2023, Edgar Osmanov, a believer from Dyallar settlement in Shamkir district, was detained by some unknown men in civilian clothes. On 12 May 2023, the Shamkir District Court sentenced Edgar Osmanov to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 2 of the Ganja City

**188. Rovshan Seyfali oglu Aliyev - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement***



**Date of arrest:** 12 May 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 12 May 2023, Rovshan Aliyev, inhabitant from Mashtaga settlement was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 2 December 2023, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Rovshan Aliyev was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment.

**189. Jahangir Javanshir oglu Seyidov - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 12 May 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 14 May 2023, Jahangir Seyidov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 3 at the Shuvelyan settlement in Baku City Khazar District

**190. Shahin Malikov - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 13 May 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 13 May 2023, Shahin Malikov was arrested by the Khazar district police officers and taken to the Mardakan police station. On 13 May 2023, the Khazar District Court sentenced Shahin Malikov to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 26 January 2024, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Shahin Malikov was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 3 at the Shuvelyan settlement in Baku City Khazar District

**191. Namiq Faiq oglu Asgarov - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement***



**Date of arrest:** 13 May 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 13 May 2023, Namiq Asgarov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 22 December 2023, the Baku Court for Serious Crimes issued a verdict: since the prosecution failed to provide any convincing evidence in the course of the trial, the Judge substituted the previous Article of the Prosecution with a new one, 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic. And afterwards Namiq Asgarov was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment.

**Judge:** Javid Huseynov

**192. Elkhan Matlab oglu Zamanov - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 13 May 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 15 May 2023, the Absheron District Court sentenced Elkhan Zamanov to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani



**193. Fadaim Jafarov - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 16 May 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 16 May 2023, Fadaim Jafarov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**194. Elnur Maharramali oglu Babayev – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 16 May 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 18 May 2023, Elnur Babayev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 14 February 2024, the Sumqayit City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 4 years in prison.

**195. Khanlar Alizade - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 22 May 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 22 May 2023, Khanlar Alizada was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**196. Baba Shukurov - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 22 May 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 22 May 2023, Baba Shukurov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**197. Idris Hasanov - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 24 May 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 24 May 2023, Idris Hasanov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**198. Karbalai Seymur - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 5 June 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 5 June 2023, the Sumgayit City Court sentenced Karbalai Seymur to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**199. Mireshgin Nazim oglu Seyidov - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 7 June 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 7 June 2023, the Ganja City Court sentenced Mireshgin Seyidov to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 2 of the Ganja City

**200. Kamal Qudrat oglu Quliyev – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 12 June 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 12 June 2023, the Ganja City Court sentenced Kamal Quliyev to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

#### 201. Emin Jahangirov - believer



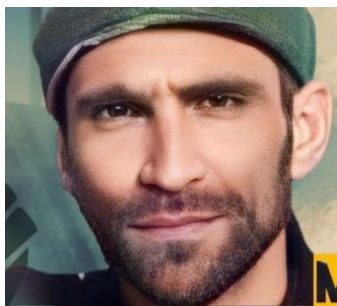
**Date of arrest:** 16 June 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 16 June 2023, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced Emin Jahangirov to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

#### 202. Aslan Maharram oglu Qasimov - believer



**Date of arrest:** 21 June 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 22 June 2023, the Astara City inhabitant Aslan Qasimov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 11 January 2024, the Lankaran City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 5 years in prison

**203. Samir Mubariz oglu Piriyeu - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 22 June 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 22 June 2023, Samir Piriyeu was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**204. Fariz Aliyev - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 27 June 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 27 June 2023, Fariz Aliyev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**205. Yusif Ahmadzada – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 27 June 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 27 June 2023, Yusif Ahmadzada was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**206. Bahruz Jafarov - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 3 July 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 3 July 2023, the Shamkir City inhabitant Bahruz Jafarov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**207. Sanan Aliyev - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 3 July 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 3 July 2023, the Shamkir City inhabitant Sanan Aliyev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani



**208. Ismayil Agayev - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 3 July 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 3 July 2023, the Baku City inhabitant Ismayil Agayev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**2109 Khayal Shukur – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 4 August 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 4 August 2023, the Sumgayit City inhabitant Khayal Shukur was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 3 at the Shuvelyan settlement in Baku City Khazar District

**210. Agaali Eldar oglu Yahyaev - member of the Board of the *Muslim Unity" Movement***



**Date of arrest:** 31 August 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 1 September 2023, the Absheron District Court for Serious Crimes sentenced Agaali Yahyayev to 4 months' imprisonment in a pre-trial detention center. On 7 September 2023, the Sumgayit City Court of Appeal presided by the Judge Rashadat Agayev did not grant the appeal of Agaali Yahyaev on changing the measure of restraint to house arrest and upheld the decision of the Court of First Instance.

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**Conclusion:**

The well-known activist of the "Muslim Unity" Movement Agaali Yahyayev has been repeatedly subjected to repression and persecution for his activities by the law enforcement bodies. In 2017, he was sentenced in the so-called "Nardaran case" to 15 years of imprisonment, in March 2021 he was pardoned by the Head of State, in May 2022 he was detained for 30 days, but continued to be engaged in public activity. On 31 August 2023, he was detained by the officers of the Absheron District Police Department of the Azerbaijani Interior Ministry. At the same time, neither his relatives nor his lawyer Zubeyda Sadigova were assured by the officers of that police department that they had no such person in their custody.

Two days later, his sister, Elnara Eldar, met her brother in the Pre-trial Detention Center No. 1 in Kyurdakhani settlement and told the media:

"A man with the rank of colonel and other police officers first tried to persuade my brother to confess to possessing and selling drugs. When they realised that my brother wouldn't comply, they started torturing him. Having tied his hands, they started to hit him on the body with their fists and beat him on the leg with a truncheon. Agaali's legs were swollen from those beatings. Despite the terrible tortures, Agaali refused to plead guilty in the crime he hadn't committed. Then the police threatened to rape him with a baseball bat, after which he was forced to admit a crime that he had not committed."

During the meeting with his lawyer, Zubeyda Sadigova, Agaali Yahyaev showed her bruises on his shoulder and places of blows on his heels. In the course of the trial on 7 September 2023, the lawyer informed the Court of Appeal of all this, as well as the fact that Yahyaev's injuries had also been recorded when he was admitted to the pre-trial detention center.

However, the Absheron Court did not take into account the defendant's and his lawyer's testimonies regarding the torture in the police department and, despite the video and audio recording of the trial, dismissed the petition.

**211. Hasan Abbaszade - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement***



**Date of arrest:** 11 September 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 12 September 2023, the Baku City Binagadi District Court sentenced Hasan Abbaszade to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

## 212. Vurgun Babayev – believer



**Date of arrest:** 11 September 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 12 September 2023, the Salyan District Court sentenced Vurgun Babayev to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

## 213. Elshan Hashimov – believer



**Date of arrest:** 11 September 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 12 September 2023, Elshan Hashimov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**214. Vusal Nusrat oglu Quliyev – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 12 September 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 14 September 2023, Vusal Quliyev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center for the duration of the preliminary investigation

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**215. Qadir Qasim oglu Mammadov – believer, editor of the religious website [maide.az](http://maide.az)**



**Date of arrest:** 14 September 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 14 September 2023, Qadir Mammadov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center for the duration of the preliminary investigation

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**216. Vugar Jalal oglu Mammadov – believer**

**Date of arrest:** 14 September 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 14 September 2023, the Akshu District inhabitant Vugar Mammadov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center for the duration of the preliminary investigation

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**217. Vugar Rafiq oglu Mammadov** – believer

**Date of arrest:** 14 September 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 14 September 2023, the Akhsu District inhabitant Vugar Mammadov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center for the duration of the preliminary investigation

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**218. Jalal Qurbanov** – believer

**Date of arrest:** 14 September 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 14 September 2023, the Barda District inhabitant Jalal Qurbanov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center for the duration of the preliminary investigation

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 3 at the Shuvelyan settlement in Baku City Khazar District

**219. Nurlan Musayev** – believer

**Date of arrest:** 14 September 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 14 September 2023, the Goychay District inhabitant Nurlan Musayev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center for the duration of the preliminary investigation

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**220. Asif Huseynov** – believer

**Date of arrest:** 14 September 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 14 September 2023, the Goychay District inhabitant Asif Huseynov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center for the duration of the preliminary investigation

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

## 221. Sabuhi Asqarov – believer



**Date of arrest:** 20 September 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 21 September 2023, the Lankaran City inhabitant Sabuhi Asqarov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center for the duration of the preliminary investigation

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

## 222. Isfandiyar Arzu oglu Mammadov - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 23 September 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 23 September 2023, the Baku City Sabunchi District Court sentenced Isfandiyar Mammadov to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center for the duration of the preliminary investigation

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

### ***Conclusion:***

Isfandiyar Mammadov, an activist of the "Muslim Unity" Movement, was detained by the officers of the 14th Police Station of the Baku City Sabunchi District on 23 September 2023 following the publication of his an anti-war post on Facebook. His relatives found out about his arrest only two days later. But since I.Mammadov is a believer, instead of administrative arrest, as it happened in September to other activists of the anti-war protest, and on 24 September 2023, Isfandiyar Mammadov was sentenced to 4 months of imprisonment in the pre-trial detention center for the period of the preliminary investigation.



**223. Seymur Aslanov** – believer



**Date of arrest:** 10 October 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 10 October, former political prisoner Seymur Aslanov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Sentence:** On 6 March 2024, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 6 years in prison.

**Judge:** Faiq Qaniyev

**224. Farman Suleyman oglu Karimov** – member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 22 October 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 22 October 2023, Farman Karimov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center for the duration of the preliminary investigation

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**225. Karbalai Tofiq** – believer



**Date of arrest:** 23 October 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 23 October 2023, Karbalai Tofiq was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center for the duration of the preliminary investigation

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

#### 226. Vilayat Qadimov – believer



**Date of arrest:** 24 October 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 24 October 2023, Karbalai Vilayat was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center for the duration of the preliminary investigation

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

#### 227. Suleyman Nasir oglu Alakbarov – theologian



**Date of arrest:** 26 October 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 26 October 2023, Suleyman Alakbarov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**228. Araz Fuzuli oğlu Hasanov – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 27 October 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 27 October 2023, Araz Hasanov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center for the duration of the preliminary investigation

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 2 of the Ganja City

**229. Jamshid Bahaddin oğlu Huseynov – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 29 October 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 29 October 2023, Jamshid Huseynov, inhabitant of the Shirvan City was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**230. Samir Orujev – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 30 October 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 30 October 2023, Samir Orujev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center for the duration of the preliminary investigation

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

### 231. Yusif Aliyev – member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 31 October 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 31 October 2023, Yusif Aliyev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center for the duration of the preliminary investigation

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

### 232. Musa Quliyev – believer



**Date of arrest:** 1 November 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 1 November 2023, the Ganja City inhabitant Musa Quliyev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center for the duration of the preliminary investigation

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**233. Aqil Rzayev – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 1 November 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 1 November 2023, the Ganja City inhabitant Aqil Rzayev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center for the duration of the preliminary investigation

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**234. Tofiq Rahimov – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 1 November 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 1 November 2023, the Ganja City inhabitant Tofiq Rahimov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center for the duration of the preliminary investigation

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**235. Vasif Nabiyeu – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 19 November 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 19 November 2023, the Shamkir City inhabitant Vasif Nabiyeu was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center for the duration of the preliminary investigation

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

### **236. Zeynal Zeynalov – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 19 November 2023

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 19 November 2023, the Shamkir City inhabitant Zeynal Zeynalov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center for the duration of the preliminary investigation

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

### **237. Jeyhun Khanoglan oglu Mammadov - believer**

**Date of arrest:** 10 January 2024

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 10 January 2024, Jeyhun Mammadov, inhabitant from the Ganja City was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

### **238. Rashid Nasib oglu Musayev - believer**

**Date of arrest:** 10 January 2024

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 10 January 2024, Rashad Musayev, inhabitant from the Ganja City was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center



**239. Ehtiram Sadi oglu Tagiyev - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 10 January 2024

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 10 January 2024, Ehtiram Tagiyev, inhabitant from the Masally City was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**240. Nijat Jabbar oglu Aslanov - believer**

**Date of arrest:** 10 January 2024

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 10 January 2024, Nijat Aslanov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**241. Mirsultan Alimir oglu Bagirov – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 11 January 2024

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 11 January 2024, Mirsultan Bagirov, inhabitant from the Salyan City was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**242. Bakhtiyar Mukhtar oglu Mammadov - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 18 February 2024

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 10 January 2024, Bakhtiyar Mammadov, inhabitant of the Suparibag settlement of Astara district was sentenced to 3 months in a pre-trial detention center

**243. Sakit Sabir oglu Mammadov - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 18 February 2024

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 18 February 2024, Sakit Mammadov, inhabitant of the Vilyan settlement of Lankaran district was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**244. Jeyhun Hajiyeu - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement***



**Date of arrest:** 18 February 2024

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 18 February 2024, Jeyhun Hajiyeu was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**245. Huseyn Rahil oglu Rzayev - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 19 February 2024

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 19 February 2024, Huseyn Rzayev, inhabitant of the Neftchala City was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**246. Eyvaz Telman oglu Bakhshiyev - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 19 February 2024

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 19 February 2024, Eyvaz Bakhshiyev, inhabitant of the Archivan settlement of the Astara district was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**247. Rahil Agayev - believer**



**Date of arrest:** 19 February 2024

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 20 February 2024, Rahil Agayev, inhabitant of the Bilasuvar City was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**248. Javanshir Safarli – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 19 February 2024

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 20 February 2024, Javanshir Safarli was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**249. Nasraddin Nasirov – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 19 February 2024

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 21 February 2024, Nasraddin Nasirov, inhabitant of the Goychay City was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**250. Ibrahim Muradov** - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement*



**Date of arrest:** 21 February 2024

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 21 February 2024, Ibrahim Muradov was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 3 at the Shuvelyan settlement in Baku City Khazar District

**251. Jeyhun Sayadov** – believer



**Date of arrest:** 22 February 2024

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 22 February 2024, Jeyhun Sayadov, inhabitant of the Ganja City was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**252. Rovshan Sharifov** – believer



**Date of arrest:** 22 February 2024

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 22 February 2024, Rovshan Sharifov, inhabitant of the Lankaran City was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**253. Amil Ali oglu Bilalov - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement***



**Date of arrest:** 22 February 2024

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 22 February 2024, Amil Bilalov, a resident of Jeyranbatan settlement in Absheron district, was coming home from work and on his way was grabbed by unknown people in civilian clothes. His relatives were not able to trace him or get any response from the law enforcement authorities. Two days later, on 24 February, they found out that Amil Bilalov was in the Absheron District Police Station within the Azerbaijani Ministry of Internal Affairs. The same day, Amil Bilalov was sentenced to 4 months' imprisonment in the pre-trial detention centre for the period of the preliminary investigation

**254. Ramin Isa oglu Babayev – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 24 February 2024

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 24 February 2024, Rovshan Sharifov, inhabitant of the Neftchala City was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center



**255. Huseyn Ahmad oglu Qasimov – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 26 February 2024

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 26 February 2024, Huseyn Qasimov, inhabitant of the Bilasuvar City was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**256. Nurlan Mirzayev - member of the *Muslim Unity Movement***



**Date of arrest:** 29 February 2024

**Charge:** Article 234.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition or storage of drugs or psychotropic substances without the purpose of sale in an amount exceeding the amount necessary for personal consumption, committed in a large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 29 February 2024, Nurlan Mirzayev, inhabitant of the Rasulzade settlement of the Baku City was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Place of detention:** Pre-trial Detention Center № 1 of Kyurdakhani

**257. Ahad Azar oglu Aliyev – believer**



**Date of arrest:** 3 March 2024

**Charge:** Article 234.4.3 (*Illegal manufacturing, purchase, storage, transportation, transfer or selling of narcotics, psychotropic substances committed in large amount*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On 4 March 2024, Ahad Aliyev was sentenced to 4 months in a pre-trial detention center

**Conclusion:**

Once again there was a deterioration in Azerbaijani-Iranian relations at the end of 2022. And it affected the believers of the *Muslim Unity Movement* (MUM) yet another time. It should be noted that the MUM Chairman Tale Bagirzade was arrested in 2015, sentenced to a 20-year-imprisonment in 2017, and has been detained as a political prisoner in the Gobustan jail for 7 years. Ten other MUM members have been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment at the same time. And now, in November-December 2022, four other MUM members were arrested on the charges, which have become "standard", the charges of drug possession.

Yet, the main impact occurred in late January-early February 2023: 44 MUM members were arrested, eight of whom were charged with drug possession, while the rest were jailed under administrative offences, "resisting the police", for the period from 10 to 30 days. However, the Azerbaijani authorities did not stop. In the period March-April, it was launched the second and most extended campaign of the arrests and detentions of believers. The arrests were carried out almost every day. The scale of repression is illustrated by these figures: between March and April, we managed to collect reliable information concerning the arrests of 82 believers. There is also some data indicating the arrest of another 93 believers, but these figures are incomplete and must be verified. Thus, by mid-April 2023, we were able to obtain reports regarding of 175 believers arrested in March-April of 2023. Moreover, there is information on the arrests of about 200 believers in the provinces, i.e. the number of arrested believers is more than 370 people. In addition, there is also information about up to 40 believers emigrated from the country, mostly to Russia, but also to the European countries.

But the arrests of believers in 2023 did not stop there. In May, it took place another wave of repressions against believers, and in late June and early July there was another campaign of hunting Shi'ite believers. In September, there was another round of the believers' arrests across the country. It is noteworthy that among those arrested opposed to the war in Karabakh were both representatives of the country's civil society and believers. However, while the civil society activists were subjected to administrative punishment in the form of imprisonment for disorderly conduct for 30 days of arrest, the law enforcement authorities treated the religious opponents of the war more harshly: all of them were arrested on the standard this year charges of drug possession.

In total, 535 Shiite believers were arrested in Azerbaijan between the end of January and the end of December 2023.

It's an interesting detail: all those arrested were recognised by the authorities' propaganda as "agents of Iran", however, their arrests were carried out not by the State Security Service, which deals with such cases but by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. At the same time, all Shiites were arrested as "drug addicts", and in their cases there is not even a single reference to Iran.

Even in the beginning of 2024, the situation with Shiites has not changed. The arrests of Shiites as "agents of Iran" were constantly ongoing, particularly large-scale arrests took place in the country's second city, Ganja, as well as in the southern part of the country. A total number of arrested Shiite believers in January-early March 2024 was around 70. Thus, more than 600 Shiites have been arrested since the beginning of the large-scale repression campaign from January 2023 to the beginning of March 2024.

Among them we managed to find data and include 187 names of believers to include them in the list of political prisoners: 14 theologians and 44 MUM activists (taking into account the arrests in previous years, 60 MUM activists are currently imprisoned).

Thus, the total number of believers on the present list of political prisoners is 208, or around 72 percent of the total.

## GROUP № 6

### SENTENCED ON TARTAR CASE - 7 persons

#### 258. Ismayil Intiqam oglu Huseynov



**Date of arrest:** 7 May 2017

**Charge:** Articles 274 (*State betray*) and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 1 August 2018, the Baku City Military Court sentenced to 16 years in prison

#### 259. Nusrat Farhad oglu Qurbanov



**Date of arrest:** 14 May 2017

**Charge:** Articles 150.2.1 (*Violent actions of sexual nature, committed by a group of persons, by a group with a premeditated conspiracy or by an organized group*), 274 (*State betray*) and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 8 October 2018, the Ganja City Military Court sentenced to 16 years in prison

**Presiding Judge:** Vugar Mammadov

**Judges:** Salman Huseynov, Vidadi Nasirov

#### 260. Suleyman Eynulla oglu Hajiyev

**Date of arrest:** 14 May 2017

**Charge:** Articles 150.2.1 (*Violent actions of sexual nature, committed by a group of persons, by a group with a premeditated conspiracy or by an organized group*), 274 (*State betray*) and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 8 October 2018, the Ganja City Military Court sentenced to 14 years in prison

**Presiding Judge:** Vugar Mammadov

**Judges:** Salman Huseynov, Vidadi Nasirov

### 261. Vagif Aliyev



**Date of arrest:** 7 June 2017

**Charge:** Articles 150.2.1 (*Violent actions of sexual nature, committed by a group of persons, by a group with a premeditated conspiracy or by an organized group*), 274 (*State betray*) and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 8 October 2018, the Ganja City Military Court sentenced to 16 years in prison

**Presiding Judge:** Vugar Mammadov

**Judges:** Salman Huseynov, Vidadi Nasirov

### 262. Faiq Arif oglu Aliyev

**Date of arrest:** 14 May 2017

**Charge:** Articles 150.2.1 (*Violent actions of sexual nature, committed by a group of persons, by a group with a premeditated conspiracy or by an organized group*), 274 (*State betray*) and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 8 October 2018, the Ganja City Military Court sentenced to 15 years in prison

**Presiding Judge:** Vugar Mammadov

**Judges:** Salman Huseynov, Vidadi Nasirov

### 263. Teymur Israyil oglu Hasanov

**Date of arrest:** 14 May 2017

**Charge:** Articles 150.2.1 (*Violent actions of sexual nature, committed by a group of persons, by a group with a premeditated conspiracy or by an organized group*), 274 (*State betray*) and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 8 October 2018, the Ganja City Military Court sentenced to 15 years in prison

**Presiding Judge:** Vugar Mammadov

**Judges:** Salman Huseynov, Vidadi Nasirov

### 264. Seymur Hasanov

**Date of arrest:** 10 June 2017

**Charge:** Articles 150.2.1 (*Violent actions of sexual nature, committed by a group of persons, by a group with a premeditated conspiracy or by an organized group*), 274 (*State betray*) and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 8 October 2018, the Ganja City Military Court sentenced to 15 years in prison

**Presiding Judge:** Vugar Mammadov

**Judges:** Salman Huseynov, Vidadi Nasirov

**Conclusion:**

On 7 May 2017, the Prosecutor General, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Internal Affairs and State Security Service issued a joint statement on revealing a group of military personnel and civilians that have been compromising military secrets to the intelligence and special units of the Armenian Armed Forces (for mere satisfaction of «material interests»). Authorities opened a criminal case with article 274 (*State treason*) of the Criminal Code of Azerbaijan Republic and launched a special investigative group with the members of the above-mentioned agencies. On 7 May the wave of arrests affecting not just the military but also civilian residents of the villages in close proximity of the frontline, targeted mainly Tartar region. On 7-8 May media reported 47 arrests within one day, yet they did not specify names of the detainees. After that date press stopped reporting the arrests, yet unconfirmed information from the frontline suggested that number of arrested people reached 400 by 17 May.

People were taken from their homes or from the work places. The arrests were taking places without providing the accused with the lawyer, the imprisonment was happening without the court decisions. Journalists and editors reporting on these arrests were called into the Prosecutor general's office to warn them against distribution of «state secrets».

On 16 May 2017, IPD already started receiving information about individuals tortured to death. Finally, was provided information about death of 11 people killed without investigation or trial. The information on the website of IPD:

<https://www.ipd-az.org/law-enforcement-agencies-of-azerbaijan-sanction-murders/>  
and <https://www.ipd-az.org/aliyevs-regime-will-not-succeed-in-hiding-the-killings-of-citizens-of-azerbaijan/>

The bodies were not passed to the families of the killed, they were buried, in such way, trying to prevent of seeing bodies mutilated under tortures.

However, some were managed to see the disfigured bodies of their loved ones.

In 2018 closed trials took place. Military prosecutor Khanlar Valiyev fabricated charges against 78 citizens of Azerbaijan Republic.

## **GROUP № 7**

### **SENTENCED ON GANJA CASE - 13 persons**

#### **265. Oqtay Nazim oglu Huseynzade**

**Date of arrest:** 12 July 2018

**Charge:** Articles 120.2.1, 120.2.3, 120.2.7, 120.2.11, 29, 120.2.1, 29, 120.2.3, 29, 120.2.7, 29, 120.2.11, 214.2.1, 214.2.3, 214.2.6, 220.1, 228.3, 228.4, 278.2, 279.1-1, 281.2 and 315.2 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 19 September 2019, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 18 years in prison.

In December 2019 the Supreme Court of the Azerbaijan Republic reduced the sentence to 8 years

**Presiding judge:** Khagani Samadov

**Judges:** Faiq Mahmudov, Mahmud Agalarov

**Place of detention:** Penal Colony № 10 in Baku City Narimanov District

**266. Rauf Fazil oğlu Bayramov**

**Date of arrest:** 12 July 2018

**Charge:** Articles 228.1, 228.4, 234.1 and 307.3 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 19 September 2019, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 9 years in prison

**Presiding judge:** Khagani Samadov

**Judges:** Faiq Mahmudov, Mahmud Agalarov

**267. Bakram Khaqani oğlu Aliyev**

**Date of arrest:** 12 July 2018

**Charge:** Articles 29.120.2.1; 29.120.2.3; 29.120.2.7; 29.120.2.10; 220.1; 228.4 and 315.2 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 10 January 2019, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 15 years in prison

**Presiding judge:** Emin Rustamov

**268. Vugar Rza oğlu Yusifov**

**Date of arrest:** 12 July 2018

**Charge:** Articles 29.120.2.1; 29.120.2.3; 29.120.2.7; 29.120.2.10; 220.1; 228.4 and 315.2 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 6 years in prison

**Presiding judge:** Emin Rustamov

**269. Mahir Aziz oğlu Azizov**



**Date of arrest:** 5 July 2018

**Charge:** Articles 29.120.2.1; 29.120.2.3; 29.120.2.4, 29.120.2.7; 29.120.2.10; 29.220.2.11; 181.3.1, 181.3.3, 214.2.1, 228.3, 318 and 320 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 16 August 2021 the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 20 years in prison



**270. Jafar Zalov**



**Date of arrest:** 5 July 2018

**Charge:** Articles 29.120.2.1; 29.120.2.3; 29.120.2.4, 29.120.2.7; 29.120.2.10; 29.220.2.11; 213.2.3, 214.2.6, 214.2.1, 277 and 278 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 16 August 2021, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 19 years in prison

**271. Jeyhun Salahov**



**Date of arrest:** 8 July 2018

**Charge:** Articles 29.120.2.1; 29.120.2.3; 29.120.2.4, 29.120.2.7; 29.120.2.10; 29.220.2.11; 213.2.6, 214.2.1, 214.2.3, 277 and 278 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 16 August 2021, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 19 years in prison

**272 . Jeyhun Qurbanov**



**Date of arrest:** 16 July 2018

**Charge:** Articles 29.120.2.1; 29.120.2.3; 29.120.2.4, 29.120.2.7; 29.120.2.10; 29.220.2.11; 213.2.6, 214.2.1, 214.2.3, 277 and 278 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 16 August 2021, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 18 years in prison

### 273. Akif Ismayil oglu Aliyev

**Date of arrest:** 13 July 2018

**Charge:** Articles 29.120.2.1; 29.120.2.3; 29.120.2.4, 29.120.2.7; 29.120.2.10; 29.220.2.11; 213.2.6, 214.2.1, 214.2.3, 277, 278, 318.2, 320.1 and 320.2 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 16 August 2021 the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 20 years in prison

### 274. Rasim Hafiz oglu Mustafayev



**Date of arrest:** 11 July 2018

**Charge:** Articles 29.120.2.1; 29.120.2.3; 29.120.2.4, 29.120.2.7; 29.120.2.10; 29.220.2.11; 213.2.6, 214.2.1, 214.2.3, 229.3, 277 and 278 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 16 August 2021, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 20 years in prison

### 275. Firudin Zeynalov



**Date of arrest:** 1 October 2017

**Charge:** Articles 221.3 (*Hooliganism committed with application of a weapon or subjects, used as the weapon*) and 315.2 (*Resistance or application of violence concerning the representative of authority*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic

**Sentence:** On 2 November 2018, the Ganja City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 3 years in prison.

His sentence expired in 2020, but he was not released. A new case was opened against him on fabricated charges and he was accused of committing a crime together with Yunis Safarov. However, in 2018, during the assassination attempt on the mayor of Ganja City, F. Zeynalov was in prison.

**Charge:** Articles 29 (*Attempt to a crime*), 120.2.1 (*Deliberate murder, committed by group of persons, on preliminary arrangement by group of persons, by organized group or criminal community*), 120.2.4 (*Deliberate murder, committed with special cruelty or in publicly dangers way*), 120.2.7 (*Deliberate murder of two or more persons*), 29,120.2.10 (*Deliberate murder, committed repeatedly*) and 120.2.11. (*Deliberate murder, connected to robbery, extortion, terrorism or gangsters*) of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

**Sentence:** On 16 August 2021, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 19 years in prison

**276. Hamlet Abdullayev****Date of arrest:** 11 July 2018**Charge:** Articles 29.120.2.1; 29.120.2.3; 29.120.2.4, 29.120.2.7; 29.120.2.10; 29.220.2.11; 213.2.6, 214.2.1, 214.2.3, 229.3, 277 and 278 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic**Sentence:** On 16 August 2021, the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 19 years in prison**277. Vugar Mammadov****Date of arrest:** 11 July 2018**Charge:** Articles 29.120.2.1; 29.120.2.3; 29.120.2.4, 29.120.2.7; 29.120.2.10; 29.220.2.11; 213.2.6, 214.2.1, 214.2.3, 277 and 278.2, 229.3 of the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic**Sentence:** On 16 August 2021 the Baku City Grave Crimes Court sentenced to 19 years in prison***Conclusion:***

On 3 July 2018, there was assassination attempt on the Chief of the Executive Power Elmar Valiyev. Ganja born Yunis Safarov wounded him and his body guard.

The name Yunis Safarov became well-known in Republic, after his photos were widespread on 3-4 July, at social networks, on which Safarov was lying on the floor, there were a lot of blood near him and on him, and there were traces of tortures on his body. Photos became evidence that Y. Safarov was beaten and brutally tortured.

After this, protest action against arbitrariness of the authorities was scheduled to 10 July, in front of Ganja City administration and widespread via social networks.

On 10 July 2018, Ministry of Internal Affairs informed about the disorders in Ganja, during which two police colonels were killed. Noteworthy, those were exactly two police colonels, who on July 3rd, did not allow Elmar Valiyev's son to kill Yunis Safarov... It is also important to pay attention, that the killing of the colonels took place without any intervention of police, the killer came to the square with a dragger in his hand, and he also left it easily. State Security Service and Ministry of Internal Affairs started mass arrest among the believers. 77 people were arrested, attracted to criminal responsibility. 8 more persons were killed during "armed resistance"

All the detainees on "Ganja case" were divided into groups. One of the first verdicts was passed on 22 February 2019. Ganja City Court on Grave Crimes sentenced the group of the accused, consisting of 11 people. On 1 March and 15 March 2019, there were also the passing of the verdicts.

Analysis of the indicated judicial proceedings demonstrated that all verdicts are unlawful, groundless, unjust and passed in accordance with political order. Court ignored the absence of any proofs of the guilt of the defendants on pressed charges against them; court did not investigate numerous complaints on the facts of tortures that accused were subjected to; court crudely violated the national legislation of the Azerbaijan Republic: Article 28 and 46 of the Constitution of the AR, Article 13 and 21.2 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Azerbaijan Republic; also the norms of international law: Article 6 (2), 5 (1), 3 of European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Article 5 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, also the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Thus, judicial proceedings and verdicts demonstrated the full absence of the judicial independence and their execution of the political order during sentencing on so called "Ganja case".

## **GROUP № 8**

### **LIFE TERM SENTENCED – 11 persons**

#### **Former Special Police Detachment members – 6 persons**

**278. Elchin Samad oglu Amiraslanov**

**Date of arrest:** 10 December 1996

**Sentence:** in 1996 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment

**Place of detention:** Gobustan Closed Prison

**279. Arif Nasir oglu Kazimov**

**Sentence:** in 1996 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment

**Place of detention:** Gobustan Closed Prison

**280. Dayanat Karim oglu Karimov**

**Sentence:** in 1994 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment

**Place of detention:** Gobustan Closed Prison

**281. Hasan Huseyn oglu Mustafayev**

**Sentence:** in 1996 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment

**Place of detention:** Gobustan Closed Prison

**282. Safa Alim oglu Poladov**

**Sentence:** in 1996 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment.

**Place of detention:** Gobustan Closed Prison

**283. Aliyusif Damat oglu Tahirov**

**Sentence:** in 1996 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment

**Place of detention:** Gobustan Closed Prison

#### **Former members of the military detachment *Qaranqush* – 3 persons**

**284. Intiqam Yusif oglu Qayibov**

**Sentence:** in 1996 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment

**Place of detention:** Gobustan Closed Prison

**285. Sahib Nuraddin oglu Mammadaliyev**

**Sentence:** in 1993 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment

**Place of detention:** Gobustan Closed Prison

**286. Yashar Hasay oglu Shahmuradov**

**Sentence:** in 1993 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment.

**Place of detention:** Gobustan Closed Prison

**Convicted on the case of the former Prime Minister  
Surat Huseynov – 2 persons**

**287. Rashid Nurulla oglu Ismayilov**

**Sentence:** in 1998 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment

**Place of detention:** Gobustan Closed Prison

**288. Huseynov Maqsud Vaqif oglu**

**Sentence:** – in 1994 was sentenced to death, commuted to life imprisonment

**Place of detention:** Gobustan Closed Prison

***Conclusion:***

In 1993-1997 the ruling regime of Azerbaijan condemned a large group of veterans of Karabakh conflict – soldiers and police officers for political reasons to death under the Criminal Code approved by the law of the Azerbaijan SSR on 8 December 1960. All convicts were tortured, some died in prison before the trial.

On 10 February 1998, the Parliament of the Azerbaijan Republic adopted the law “*On amending the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, and the Correction-Labor Code*”, to abolish the death penalty in Azerbaijan. Article 4 of this law stated that the punishment of persons sentenced to the death penalty prior to the law taking force, shall be replaced with a sentence of life imprisonment. In fact, death penalty was replaced with a type of punishment that was not enshrined in any legislation at the time.

The new Criminal Code of Azerbaijan Republic, which provides for the punishment of life imprisonment, entered into force in 2000. The old Criminal Code, which was in force until 2000, did not provide for life imprisonment, but for the death penalty and a maximum term of 15 years of imprisonment. Therefore, all persons sentenced to the death penalty before 2000 should have to replace the penalty to 15 years of imprisonment or to judge again.

It is not legally lawful for them to replace the death penalty for life imprisonment without trial and a court verdict on the basis of a decision of Parliament. When Azerbaijan joined to the Council of Europe in 2001, the Institute for Peace and Democracy presented a list of 716 political prisoners to the CoE experts. This list included also mentioned above 14 people. All of them were found for political motives.