



Statement

of the Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center
on political pressure against the activist Fuad Ismayilov

EMDS is concerned over the news about activist Fuad Ismayilov who has been beaten up in the Binagadi temporary detention center as reported by his family members.

EMDS notes that the pressure against Fuad Ismayilov is due to his active work in 9 February 2020 early Parliamentary Elections as an observer and during the post-election demonstrations as an active participant. He was the representative of candidate Fikrat Jafarli as an observer in the 8th polling station of the 32nd Surakhani third electoral district during the 9 February 2020 early Parliamentary Elections and was forcibly taken out of the polling station by police for objecting the irregularities. On February 21st, Ismayilov Fuad was detained by police officers in front of the Central Election Commission after he wrote 'Fu Mazi' (Mazi, the head of the CEC, go away!) to the building nearby, but was later released. However, after this incident, he was arrested two times in a row for possessing drugs and sentenced to 60 days of administrative arrest each time.

Notably, in March, a pressure campaign against active participants of the election started. As part of the campaign, Fuad Ismayilov was detained twice on March 7th and May 22nd was accused with the 206th article of the Code of the Administrative Offences (the illegal use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and their manufacture, purchase, storage, transportation or shipment not for sale in the amount necessary for personal consumption) and sentenced to 60 days of administrative arrest. Ismayilov denied allegations in both trials and called the accusations bogus and reported that he was beaten up in police stations while detained.

On June 23rd, during a short phone call with his mother, he told that two days before the call he was severely beaten up in Binagadi temporary detention center after which his mouth bleed due to the blows. His hands were handcuffed, and he was beaten up by 6 police officers for scratching the word 'Facebook' underneath his bed. However, the detention center officers forced Fuad to write and sign a statement to declare the possession of a nail to commit suicide later.

EMDS calls for the end of the pressure against Ismayilov, condemns the ill-treatment of him in the Binagadi detention center and demands holding the officers responsible who took part in applying physical violence against him. EMDS considers the ill-treatment of Ismayilov in the detention centre as a blunt violation of the demands of both domestic legislation and obligations incurred under the international convention of which Azerbaijan is a party to.

EMDS notes that the early Parliamentary Elections held on 9 February 2020 was deemed to be conducted in an environment where the genuine political competition was restrained and all stages of the election were marred by traditional irregularities in both the [preliminary report](#) of the EMDS and the [joint statement](#) of preliminary findings and of the international election observation mission which included SCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA), and the Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe (PACE)

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