

Press Release

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Council of Europe Secretary General voices concern about journalist sent to prison in Azerbaijan

Statement by Terry Davis

Strasbourg, 07.12.2007 – "I am very concerned about reports from Azerbaijan that journalist Ilgar Nasibov has been sent to prison as a result of a defamation case.

I am especially concerned about allegations that the defamation case is the result of a private letter which was not meant for publication, that Mr Nasibov may have been denied due process of law, and that he has been ill-treated while in police custody.

I have therefore asked the Azerbaijani authorities to clarify what has happened in the case of Mr Ilgar Nasibov.

As a matter of principle, my strong view is that defamation should not be a criminal offence."

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