

URGENT ACTION

IMPRISONED POLITICIAN REQUIRES URGENT HEALTHCARE

The health of imprisoned Azerbaijani opposition figure Tofiq Yagublu continues to sharply deteriorate. He is unable to bear weight on his knee due to severe pain and swelling. Tofiq Yagublu must be released immediately and unconditionally and allowed to access the healthcare he urgently needs.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **Sixth UA 38.20**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Iham Aliyev
President of Azerbaijan
19 Istiqlaliyyat Street
Baku AZ1066
Azerbaijan
Email: office@pa.gov.az

Send a copy of your letter to the address below

CC: Embassy of Azerbaijan in the United States
Ambassador Khazar Ibrahim
2741 34th St NW,
Washington, DC 20008
Email: azerbaijan@azembassy.us

Dear President Aliyev,

I am writing to draw your attention to the rapidly deteriorating health of arbitrarily imprisoned political opposition leader, **Tofiq Yagublu**. He is held in Penitentiary Facility No 17 and is unable to bear weight on his knee due to severe pain and swelling.

Following repeated demands by his family, he was taken to the penitentiary service hospital, where an X-ray was conducted but proved insufficient to diagnose his condition. He was subsequently transferred to Leyla Shikhlinskaya Hospital, where an MRI was performed. However, as of June 15, more than four weeks after the MRI test, and despite Tofiq Yagublu consenting to the results being shared with his family, the results of the MRI have not been shared with Tofiq Yagublu or his family and the prison authorities have consistently refused to do so.

The swelling in Tofiq Yagublu's knee had been documented during his time in pre-trial detention at Kurdakhani, where he was examined on several occasions. Initially, facility staff told him not to use a knee brace. However, after the MRI scan, the treating doctor firmly advised that a knee brace must be worn. The pain has become so severe that he now requires a walking aid. His family had to arrange for a crutch to be brought to him, but the prison authorities refuse to allow it and have returned it to the family.

The state bears responsibility for the life and health of all individuals in its custody. This includes ensuring access to adequate healthcare services free of charge and without discrimination and providing immediate medical attention in urgent situations.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Tofiq Yagublu and ensure that he can access the healthcare he requires. I also call on the Azerbaijani authorities to stop misusing the criminal justice system to target dissent and freedom of expression.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tofig Yagublu is a prominent opposition figure, a former journalist and an outspoken critic of the Azerbaijani government. He is a member of the Musavat Party and a senior politician in the National Council of Democratic Forces, a coalition of opposition parties and activists. He has long been targeted by the authorities for his criticism of alleged government corruption and human rights violations, and was previously imprisoned on fabricated, politically motivated charges.

On December 14, 2023, police arrested Tofig Yagublu as he was exiting the metro in central Baku. They subsequently claimed to have found 5,000 euros, 2,500 manats, and an unspecified number of US dollars in his family's home. According to his daughter, **Nigar Hazi**, the money had been planted by authorities during the search. Possession of cash, including in foreign currency, is not an offense under Azerbaijani law.

On March 10, 2025, the Baku Court of Grave Crimes sentenced Tofig Yagublu to nine years in prison on charges of "fraud resulting in substantial harm" (Article 178.3.2 of the Criminal Code) and "document forgery" (Articles 320.1 and 320.2). He has consistently denied all allegations against him. On May 20, 2025, the Baku Court of Appeal's upheld the nine-year prison sentence against Tofig Yagublu in a sham court hearing, largely seen as part of the systematic repression of dissent in Azerbaijan. On April 1, 2025, he announced a hunger strike in protest at his conviction, which he described as "unfounded, unlawful, and dishonorable."

Tofig Yagublu has been held in quarantine at Penitentiary Institution No. 17 for more than fifteen days without explanation from the authorities, before being transferred to the general detention area on May 8. Tofig Yagublu's politically motivated prosecution is part of the Azerbaijani authorities' systematic ongoing crackdown on politicians, human rights defenders, government critics, independent media, and all forms of dissent, including the recent imprisonment of other opposition figures on similarly baseless charges.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Azerbaijani, Turkish, Russian, English, or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: December 23, 2026

NAME AND PRONOUN: Tofig Yagublu (he/him)

PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/azerbaijan-tofig-yagublus-life-in-danger/>