

IHF FOCUS: elections; freedom of media; freedom of association; peaceful assembly; judicial system; torture, ill-treatment and police misconduct; conditions in prisons and detention facilities; right to privacy; religious intolerance; intolerance, xenophobia, racial discrimination and hate speech; asylum seekers and immigrants; death penalty; international humanitarian law; rights of the disabled and mentally ill; homosexuals' rights; human rights defenders.

The year 2001 left many human rights problems still unresolved in Azerbaijan. In addition, new abuses and intimidations emerged, and the Government's overall efforts to improve human rights' promotion and protection remained unsatisfactory.

The parliamentary elections held in some constituencies were characterised by irregularities. Numerous cases of harassment and imprisonment of journalists were reported and some news stands of independent distribution companies were illegally closed down. Further, many NGOs have faced serious obstacles officially registering with Justice Ministry. For example, many religious associations, were completely prohibited from registering on the grounds that they had violated the laws of the country in one way or another.

The Azerbaijani authorities refused to recognize the existence of political prisoners and failed to respond adequately to the Council of Europe's proposal to release all political prisoners. Human rights defenders in particular have encountered animosity from state authorities, private persons and media.

Elections

The Central Election Commission (CEC) and the Constitutional Court annulled the results of the 5 November 2000 parliamentary elections in eleven constituencies after serious irregularities in the election process were found to have taken place. As a result, new elections were held only in single-mandated constituencies. During the second round carried out on 7 January, polling took place in a calm and orderly manner and in contrast to November elections, observers were generally able to conduct their work unhindered. Despite

this, a number of irregularities such as ballot stuffing, false counting and tabulation processing were detected once again.²

On 16 November, elections for the vacant deputy places of *Milli Mejlis* (Parliament) were held in the 52nd Agjabledi and 87th Tovuz election districts. Nine candidates competed for two deputy mandates in the respective elections. The major opposition parties, however, did not participate in the elections, as they refused to recognize the legitimacy of the current Parliament claiming that it had been formed through unfair elections.

According to the CEC statistics, 65% of the voters took part in the elections. Contrary to these statistics, local observers reported that no more than 20-25% of the people had voted since there had been no turnout in Agjabledi. Regardless of this, the District Election Commissions announced that Tahir Rzayev and Ilqar Giliđjov, who were supported by the government authorities, won the elections.³

The opposition media reported a number of irregularities during the November elections, including multiple and proxy voting, ballot stuffing, voting without producing IDs, exaggerating voter turnout in some of the stations and overall interference of Election Commission members in the voting process. Opposition members of the Commissions and opposition monitors were under strong pressure and had to leave the voting stations.⁴

Freedom of Expression and Media

Freedom of the Media

The trial of former Naval Captain Djanmirza Mirzoyev characterised the common problem of obstructing journal-

ists' access to information concerning trial proceedings. The formally open trial was held in the premises of an investigation prison which enabled the authorities to deny free access to journalists and reporters. Mr Mirzoyev has been subject to repeated harassment in recent years for his efforts to publicise corruption existing in the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry. On 13 July, journalists were not allowed to enter the courtroom while he was tried. On 5 November, Mr Mirzoyev was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment on charges of plotting the murder of Rear Admiral Eduard Huseynov in 1993. The court rejected all the evidence presented by Mirzoyev at the trial.⁵

Four months later, opposition journalists were not permitted to cover New Azerbaijan Party's (YAP, the ruling party in Azerbaijan) congress. The final resolution adopted at the congress accused the leading opposition newspapers *Azadliq*, *Hurriyyet* and *Yeni Musavat* of carrying out anti-governmental campaigns. As a result, opposition journalists faced significant obstacles in obtaining information concerning the organs of State.

Several legal acts concerning mass media were adopted and in May, President Heydar Aliyev abolished the Ministry of Press and Information. In place of the Ministry, a National Council for Press, Television and Internet was established by presidential decree. The Council, however, did not operate during the year of 2001.

On 18 June, the President also decreed that there would be a switch from Cyrillic to Latin alphabet in media. The newspaper *Impuls* persisted in using the old graphics and faced administrative pressure. The prosecutor reportedly warned the editor about possible punishment for violation of the decree. On 21 June, the so-called "Increase of State Care on Media" decree was issued. It gave the media certain privileges, in particular exempting newspaper from paying taxes on sale for

the next three years and decreasing the customs fares for imported newsprint.

Ruh, a committee to protect journalists' rights, recorded at least 30 cases of court-imposed fines on 21 newspapers. It was estimated that journalists' rights were violated more than 120 times, including 55 cases of physical abuse. Yet, no perpetrator was punished.

The news stands of the private press distribution firm Qaya were illegally closed down all over the country. On 13 November, Azerbaijani editors met with Baku Mayor Hadjibala Abutalibov and an official of Presidential Administration, Ali Hasanov, to protest against the closures. The *Qaya* owner, Khanhuseyn Aliyev, claimed that the Azerbaijani authorities wanted to eliminate any competition before starting the privatization of the state-run distribution network.⁶ Also kiosks of other distribution networks were removed, such as Seda, Chapar and Qasid.

◆ Azerbaijani courts closed down the newspapers *Bakinsky Boulevard*, *Milletin Sesi*, *Femida*, and *Etimad*. The TV Company ABA was taken off the air as well.

◆ There were a multitude of obstacles blocking the proper functioning of regional TV companies in Minqechevir, Quba and Balakan.

◆ Chief editor of *Milletin sesi* newspaper, Shahbaz Khuduoglu; the founder of *Bakinsky boulevard* newspaper Elmar Huseynov; vice-editor of *Ulus* newspaper Surkhay Hadjiyev and its founder Yaqub Abbasov; and Director of Printing House BPP Shahlar Mammedov, were all arrested in 2001. They were eventually released, however, only on pardon or amnesty. For a short time, the police also detained about 15 other journalists. Three more journalists under trial – Faiq Zulfuqarov, Irada Huseynova and Eynulla Fatullayev – were forced into exile or to into hiding in order to avoid imprisonment.

The editorial staffs of persecuted media, together with journalists' unions, organised mass actions of protest and pickets which were suppressed by police.

◆ On 15 November, the staff of the banned weeklies *Milletin sesi* and *Bakinski bulvar*, along with their colleagues from other banned newspapers, tried to conduct a strike, however, the police dispersed the demonstration, arresting and beating the striking journalists. Shahbaz Khuduoglu, chief editor of *Milletin sesi*; Elmar Huseynov, founder of *Bakinski bulvar*; and a third journalist were arrested and detained for several hours. Many other media workers were also violently assaulted.⁷

◆ In December, three journalists from the *Yeni Musavat* newspaper went on hunger-strike demanding identification of the persons who had beaten *Yeni Musavat's* journalist Shahnaz Metlebqizi.

The National Security Minister accused journalists of "amorality" after their visit in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. This accusation triggered pro-governmental and independent media to launch a joint campaign against these journalists.

On 26 December, President Aliyev met with representatives of mass media and journalists' organizations who informed him about the journalists' problems with state authorities. In the aftermath of the meeting some officials withdrew their complaints brought to court against mass media. Also, two parliamentary commissions proposed a bill entitled "Changes and Additions to the Law on Mass Media," designed to repeal all discriminatory provisions from the Media Law adopted in 1999.

Freedom of Association

1,400 NGOs were registered as of the end of 2001. However, hundreds of NGOs continued to face problems with official registration by the Ministry of Justice.

◆ The federation named NGO Forum consists of 320 member organizations, 135 of among which were not registered in 2001 although they had applied long time ago.⁸

◆ Ecolex-Azerbaijan, an environmentalist NGO, submitted all the necessary documentation on 16 October 2000, yet, it was not registered by the end of 2001.⁹

◆ In spring 2001, the association Lawyers of 21st Century received the seventh refusal for registration from the Ministry of Justice.

Leading opposition parties experienced problems with renting office premises. For instance, the Party of National Independence of Azerbaijan (AMIP) was forcibly removed from the building, where the party's office was located. The Musavat Party was also warned to leave its office situated in Baku's city centre. Both parties had occupied these premises since 1993. However, at the same time, the ruling party YAP opened new offices in the centre of Baku.

Peaceful Assembly

Generally, the applications for mass actions in the Baku city centre were rejected by the head of the city executive while such activities in less crowded and more peripheral places were occasionally allowed. Each attempt to hold an "undesired" street rally, meeting or picket was quickly dispersed by the police. Often, on such occasions, police used violence against journalists.

◆ Of the mass actions held uninterruptedly throughout January and February, the Karabakhi war invalids mass action in support of some hunger-striking members of the association, resulted in arrests of war veterans. In July, eight of them were sentenced to 1-6 years of imprisonment, and six other received suspended sentences. During the period August-September the imprisoned invalids were either pardoned or released on appeal.

Judicial System

On 25 December, the Parliament ratified the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). As a result, Azerbaijani citizens will have the right to file complaints to the European Court on Human Rights for violations of their rights by the State.

During an expanded session of the Prosecutor's Office Collegium on 1 October, Attorney General Zakir Qaralov stated that a new Directorate on Support of State Accusation had been established within his Office, and the Directorates for Control over the Legality of Judgments in criminal and civil cases had been abolished. A new division on public relations was established to improve transparency in the work of the Prosecutor's Office.

Political Prisoners

In February, the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) appointed three independent experts to investigate whether there were any political prisoners in Azerbaijan and Armenia. The experts concluded that there indeed were political prisoners in Azerbaijan, and proposed to elaborate upon the criteria for their definition. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe requested the Azerbaijani authorities to release all political prisoners.¹⁰

However, while the authorities denied the existence of political prisoners, they also pardoned many of them; 36 political prisoners were released on 17 August, three on 17 October, and 29 on 29 December.

According to the Human Rights Centre of Azerbaijan (HRCA, IHF cooperating committee), there were about 670 political prisoners in Azerbaijan, of whom at least 54 were arrested after Azerbaijan's accession in Council of Europe. Other human rights organizations cited the total figures between 213 and 360.

Torture, Ill-Treatment and Police Misconduct

On 21 December, Azerbaijan signed the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as its First and Second Protocols. However, torture and ill-treatment remained a serious problem in Azerbaijan.

◆ A wide public resonance was created by the case of Ilqar Djavadov, a 28-year-old engineer who was arrested on 13 May because he was unable to produce his ID. He was taken to the 9th Sabayil District Police Station where he was reportedly beaten. In addition to the physical abuse, police officers attempted to extract a bribe from Mr Djavadov's wife in return for his release. However, he died in custody as a result of numerous broken bones. The chief of the police station claimed that his injuries were the result of falling from a second-floor window in an attempt to escape. The prosecutor general brought charges of abuse of duty against three police officers who had arrested Djavadov.¹¹

◆ Criminal proceedings were opened in September in connection with the 1994 death of trade unionist Djamal Aliyev in police custody. Mr Aliyev died as result of torture, and the police and district prosecutor attempted to conceal the crime by falsifying the reasons for the death. A criminal investigation on Aliyev's case was initiated only in 1997, after the victim's relatives met the Council of Europe's delegation. Finally, in May 1998, four policemen were arrested for "premeditated grave injury", "abuse of power", "excessive use of power", "duty forgery", and "forcing a witness". Suleyman Agayev, former chief of the 17th Narimanov District Police Office of Baku who was allegedly involved in the case, was recently arrested in Russia and extradited to Azerbaijan.

According to a report of Prosecutor General Zakir Qaralov presented on 1 October, there were cases of "severe violation of the rule of law [in the recent past], even in things that were under the personal control of the President." The Prosecutor's Offices underwent personnel cleansing that resulted in changing of more than 70% of the prosecutors. Some 200 officers were disciplined and 61 were discharged due to "inability to work in the Prosecutor's Office because of their moral and professional characteristics."

In May, the President of the Republic signed the Law on Extradition, Article 3.2.2 of which prohibited the expatriation to other countries, including the country of their origin, of persons at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

Conditions in Prisons and Detention Facilities

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visited numerous detention facilities, which were under the supervision of the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of National Security, and the Ministry of Interior. Within the framework of the Tuberculosis Control Project of the penitentiary system, conducted by the Ministry of Justice with the active assistance of the ICRC, some 570 detainees were under treatment in colony No. 3 as of the end of 2001.¹²

In September, the Initiative Group of Amnesty International in Azerbaijan, the HRCA and the Centre of Development Programs "El" agreed upon mutual protocols for co-operation with the main Directorate for the Implementation of the Ministry of Justice's Judgments. The agreements related to the different activities such as prison visits aimed at allowing direct and close contact with detained persons; informing prisoners of their rights; promoting opportunities for proper education of the prisoners and the prison personnel; providing assistance for prison libraries; and social rehabilitation for released prisoners.

As a consequence, the HRCA observers reported after their September visit to Ganja city's preliminary detention prisons that the visit had resulted in removing bars from the windows, changing the scheme for lighting of the cells, and improving the library service.

There were about 18,000 prisoners in Azerbaijan, including at least 3,000 in pre-trial facilities (SIZO) as of the end of 2001. The 1 February amnesty covered 8,516 persons, including 2,429 convicted prisoners, 4,703 court proceedings, and 996 in pre-trial investigation. The sentences of other 320, who had not served their term of imprisonment, were reduced, and 68 more persons were completely released from punishment. Further, in the period between August and December, 174 people were pardoned and 121 pre-trial detainees released. At least 68 political prisoners were among those pardoned. Unserved prison sentences of at least 53 were reduced.

On 19 June, the President decreed the establishment of a new Presidential Commission on Pardon Affairs. The 19-member Commission consists of clergy, members of Parliament, intellectuals, trade unionists, journalists, as well as two human rights activists.

Religious Intolerance

A new decree of 21 June established a State Committee on the Work with Religious Structures, which replaced the old Directorate for Religious Affairs of the Cabinet of Ministers. The Committee would be responsible for creating conditions to ensure freedom of conscience, thought and religious beliefs. In addition, it would exert control over the implementation of legislation in the respective area, would be in charge of registration of religious organisations, and of organising pilgrimages to different countries. Moreover, the Committee is entitled to speak on behalf of the State when considering disputes between religious organisations, and to bring

the corresponding issues before the competent state bodies. The new institution was also entrusted with the task to control the publication of religious literature, and to scrutinize religious schools. Further, the Committee has the right to bring cases before courts, asking for termination of activities of religious organizations that have violated the law, incited religious discord and hatred, or engaged in activities that threaten the national security. The body is also commissioned to collect and forward to the corresponding law enforcement authorities any propaganda materials on religion disseminated by foreigners or stateless persons.¹³

The head of the newly established Committee, Mr Rafiq Aliyev estimated that of the total of 2,000 religious organizations in Azerbaijan, only 410 were formally registered. Those of them, which had not undergone registration proceedings, were asked to do so by the beginning of October 2001. Mr Aliyev stated that the registration process would take six or seven months. Regarding Muslims, he said that the Baku-based Spiritual Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus must govern all the mosques. He added that the number of permissions granted to foreign clerics to engage in proselytising in Azerbaijan would be limited, and their sojourn in the country would be restricted. In addition, the legal ban on the working of "foreign nationals" as teachers in Azerbaijani Islamic institutes of higher learning would be strictly enforced. The resolution to reinforce the ban was facilitated by the fact that 90% of the *medreses* in Azerbaijan have not been registered. The textbooks and other teaching materials used in those institutions will be examined for suitability.¹⁴

◆ At the trial of 12 alleged Azeri "*wahhabi*" mercenaries in late December, the state prosecutor demanded prohibition of the Abu-Bekr mosque's activities, where the defendants reportedly gathered.

◆ In December, the State Religious Committee brought a case before the Narimanov District Court insisting on closing down the Baptist group called the "Temple of Love," which allegedly violated the Law on Freedom of Religion, and its activities were said to insult Islam. The trial was scheduled for January 2002.¹⁵

In December, the Ministry of Justice prohibited the registration of some Islamic charity organizations, charged with "abusing established conditions, [because] under the guise of providing humanitarian aid, dealt with sabotage." Several other organizations such as the Azerbaijani branch of the International Charity Foundation Chaghryysh (Appeal), the Baku Association of Islamic Revival, the Society for Providing Help for Lonely Mothers and Children, the Islamic Charitable Society, and the Azerbaijani branch of the Revival of Islamic Heritage Society, were libelled in a similar fashion. Other establishments like the Youth Association Ikmal and the Adventist organization ADRA were officially threatened with elimination.¹⁶

Intolerance, Xenophobia, Racial Discrimination and Hate Speech

The continuing conflict with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh was the main reason to spur xenophobic statements during 2001.

State officials frequently resorted to discriminatory or xenophobic statements.

◆ Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan in the UN in Geneva, Isfandiyar Vahabzade said: "I can firmly state that our diplomats whose mothers are Armenians, Russians or Jews (I even do not talk about smaller minorities living on the territory of the Republic), cannot adequately represent the interests of Azerbaijan abroad."¹⁷

Some governmental officials claimed that human rights and opposition activism meant working in favour of Armenians.

This new wave of enmity was inflamed further by the visit of a group of NGO and

opposition activists from Nagorno Karabakh in early September. It was the 19th visit of an ethnic Armenian delegation of similar kind in 2001, but the first one coming directly from Nagorno Karabakh.

Asylum Seekers and Immigrants

As a result of the standstill in the official negotiations for solving the problems related to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, about 600,000 internally displaced persons and 200,000 refugees from Armenia were still awaiting for repatriation at the end of 2001.

After the 11 September events, the situation of approximately 2,000 Afghani and 9,000 Chechen immigrants in Azerbaijan became aggravated. They were patently subjected to police harassment, and, in spite of the authorities' "knowledge" that they had fled from persecution on ethnic and political grounds, they were not granted official refugee status.

Although the UNHCR had registered more than 2,000 refugee families from Chechnya, only about 400 persons received monthly financial allowance from the organisation. Instead, at least 1,000 families merely got the UNHCR standard letter requesting the Azerbaijani authorities to provide them with temporary protection.¹⁸

Death Penalty

On 15 May, the President signed the Law on Extradition, whose Article 3.2.1 prohibits extradition of a person to a country where he/she would be likely to face the death penalty. An individual can be extradited only if the receiving country guarantees that he/she will not face capital punishment, or, if a death sentence is already passed, the person will not be executed. Under Article 3.2.1, a foreign country may also request Azerbaijani authorities to punish the corresponding person according to the existing legislation in Azerbaijan.

During 2001, authorities extradited at least two unnamed persons believed to have been involved in terrorist activities in Egypt, and three other accused of similar activities in Saudi Arabia.¹⁹ The five of them were sent to the respective countries without seeking guarantees that they would not be sentenced to death and executed.

On 5 January, the last of the prisoners with commuted death sentences were transferred from the former 5th "death" wing of the Bayil prison to more comfortable cells of the Qobustan prison.

International Humanitarian Law

In March, the President renewed the State Commission on Prisoners of War, Missed in Operations and Hostages. The National Security Minister Namiq Abbasov was appointed its chairperson. Other new members included politicians, human rights activists, and journalists. Along with the initial functions, i.e., investigating and searching of missed-in-operation war criminals, liberating prisoners of war and hostages, and dealing with social rehabilitation of repatriated prisoners, the Commission was entrusted with finding, collecting, and propagating information and documentation concerning ethnic cleansings and genocide of Azeris by Armenians.

It was reported during the year that prisoners of war and hostages had been taken at the front-line. Also, Azeri citizen Barhudar Rustamov was taken prisoner by Armenians in September while working in Georgia. However, the Government often avoided reporting on such cases.

The ICRC reported on repatriation proceedings under its auspices of Azerbaijani nationals captured by Armenians: seven were released during the year.

On 14 November, criminal proceedings were initiated in Baku against 13 Azeri citizens who were arrested for alleged participation in war operations in Chechnya, and accused of being "mercenaries".

On 25 December the Parliament approved a proposal of President Aliyev for

lifting the age of men's eligibility for military service from 27 to 35 years. The decision also restricted the number of categories of persons qualifying for suspension from their military service.²⁰

Rights of the Disabled and Mentally Ill

In December, the privileges of the handicapped and mentally ill were abolished. These included reductions in taxes, in municipal payments and local transportation. However, the medical treatment in state hospitals and clinics would still be free of charge for Karabakhi war invalids and families of people who had died for a "holy purpose" - in practice, those killed by the Soviet Army during its invasion in Baku in January 1990 or by Armenians in terrorist acts and during the war in Nagorno Karabakh.

On 12 June, the President signed a Law on Psychiatric Care. It declared the voluntary character of psychiatric care, excluding cases such as medical treatment ordered by a court, and medical treatment of a person found to be dangerous for him/herself and society. Otherwise, any restriction on patient's freedom was prohibited save in accordance with the law.

According to the Law on Psychiatric Care, the patient was entitled to the right to respect of dignity; be informed about his illness and the process of medical treatment he/she would be exposed to; free assistance in state health institutions; free choice of doctor and treatment institution; legal consultant; and not to be object of experiments and/or to recording of his/her treatment without the person's agreement. In addition, the confidentiality of the personal files of mental patients was guaranteed.

Homosexuals' Rights

Although homosexual acts between consenting male adults were officially decriminalized, reports about police abuses

against gays, mainly male prostitutes, persisted during the last year. While complaining of the violence against them, the victims preferred to remain anonymous fearing retaliation on the part of police.

Women's Rights

The police disclosed names of female prostitutes and women suffering by venereal diseases. Since 2000, prostitution is punishable. In December, the Parliament amended the Code of Administrative Offences and decreased the maximal fine for prostitution from 66 to 53 Euro.

Human Rights Defenders

During the entire year, human rights defenders faced the enmity of high state officials who accused them not only of impairing the image of the country but also of working for foreign intelligence agencies, etc. Particularly the HRCA and the Institute for Peace and Democracy (IPD) faced harassment for presenting their own lists of the estimated number of alleged political prisoners in Azerbaijan.

◆ In October, director of the Human Rights Resource Centre, Mehdi Mehdiyev, tried to obtain permission to visit opposition demonstrators arrested on 29 September. He was not allowed to do so and instead was insulted and deported from Nakhchivan. The police unlawfully confiscated his audiotapes and notes at the Nakhchivan airport. The officers of the Ministry of Interior in Nakhchivan commented that Mehdiyev exposed an interest in matters that were not within his competence and, therefore, faced a "cold attitude".²¹

In late 2001, the split between the political prisoners' advocates and the "patriotic" NGOs opposing the Council of Europe's pressure on the Azerbaijani Government became visible, although there were still slight attempts for cooperation between the civil societies of the conflicting sides.

The latter NGOs perceived all criticism of the Government as enemy (often Armenian) propaganda.

The Society of the Victims of Human Rights Defenders was established in October, uniting people who claimed that they were deprived of their real estates as a result of "human rights" activities of organizations that allegedly cooperated with prosecutors, police and judges. Some so-called human rights groups acted as a kind of Soviet-style "people's control groups" and

provided for the opportunity for officials to interfere in the property issues and private lives of citizens. For example, in some cases where older persons sold their flats to younger ones, such groups initiated court proceedings to declare the old people incapacitated, and then began legal proceedings as the guardians of the old people. With assistance of partners in the Prosecutor's Office and courts, they tried to have the initial sale contract declared invalid and then appropriate the flat for themselves.

Endnotes

- ¹ Based on the Human Rights Center of Azerbaijan (HRA), *Status of Civil and Political Rights in Azerbaijan in 2001*.
- ² *Republic of Azerbaijan, Parliamentary Elections 5 November 2000 & 7 January 2001, OSCE/ODIHR Final Report*.
- ³ Turan News Agency, 08 October 2001.
- ⁴ *The Report of the Election Monitoring Center of the Non-Government Organizations*, 26 November 2001.
- ⁵ *RFE/RL Newslines*, 6 November.
- ⁶ *RFE/RL Newslines*, 14 November 2001.
- ⁷ Journalists' Trade Union, 15 November 2001.
- ⁸ NGO Fundraising Bulletin No. 02(19), 4-11 January 2002, at <http://ngofund.aznet.org>
- ⁹ Information about the problems connected with state registration of the center of environmental law *Ecolex-Azerbaijan*, October 2001.
- ¹⁰ SG/Inf(2001)34 / 24 October 2001.
- ¹¹ IHF open letter to the President of Azerbaijan Republic, 28 May 2001.
- ¹² *ICRC Baku Bulletin*, June 2001.
- ¹³ *Zerkalo*, 24 July 2001.
- ¹⁴ *RFE/RL Caucasus Report*, Vol. 4, No. 30, 16 August 2001.
- ¹⁵ Keston Institute, 12 December 2001, at www.keston.org
- ¹⁶ *Bakinsky Rabochy*, 8 December 2001.
- ¹⁷ *Echo*, 5 June 2001.
- ¹⁸ Information bulletin of the UNHCR Office in Baku, December 2001
- ¹⁹ Turan News Agency, 1 December 2001.
- ²⁰ *RFE/RL Newslines*, 28 December 2001.
- ²¹ Turan News Agency, 8 October 2001.