

Reporters Without Borders

<http://www.rsf.org/azerbaijan-did-you-know-that-independent-11-06-2015,47999.html>

Europe/Ex-USSR - Azerbaijan

European Games

Did you know that independent journalism is a high-risk sport in Azerbaijan?

11 June 2015

With the first-ever European Games about to get underway in Baku, Azerbaijan, Reporters Without Borders is launching a campaign to draw the public's attention to the dire state of freedom of information in the host country.

After [urging](#) governments not to send a high-level delegation to the inaugural ceremony and [urging](#) sponsors not to turn a blind eye to the problems for the sake of their business interests, Reporters Without Borders is now offering a visual spotlighting the violations of freedom of information.

BAKU EUROPEAN GAMES
Behind the scenes, a hell for independent journalists

| Big media spectacle | Systematic persecution of journalists in Azerbaijan |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9-billion-euro budget | 0 independent TV stations in Azerbaijan |
| 640 million euros to build the Baku Olympic Stadium | 12 journalists jailed - Europe's biggest prison for media personnel |
| 6,000 athletes competing | 12 years - the jail term Khadija Ismayilova is facing for covering high-level government corruption |
| 50 countries participating | 162nd out of 180 countries in the 2015 Press Freedom Index |
| 800 foreign journalists expected | 2 of the 4 main independent media outlets closed in the past year, the two remaining ones in the process of being throttled economically |
| 1,400 journalists accredited | 1.4 million euros in fines in the past 10 years for the opposition newspaper Azadliq |

Baku 2015

REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS
FOR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

www.rsf.org

More information: <http://en.rsf.org/azerbaijan.html>

(Photo: Kirill Kudryavtsev / AFP)

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- , (JPEG - 37.2 kb)