

Basic information	
2025/3028(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects Resolution on the arbitrary arrest and sentencing of academics Bahruz Samadov and Igbal Abilov in Azerbaijan Subject 6.10.09 Human rights situation in the world Geographical area Azerbaijan	Procedure completed

Key players		
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner
	European External Action Service	KALLAS Kaja

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
17/12/2025	Debate in Parliament		
18/12/2025	Decision by Parliament	T10-0339/2025	Summary
18/12/2025	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2025/3028(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Urgent debate or resolution
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 150-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Motion for a resolution		B10-0567/2025	15/12/2025	
Motion for a resolution		B10-0576/2025	15/12/2025	

Motion for a resolution		B10-0581/2025	15/12/2025	
Motion for a resolution		B10-0583/2025	15/12/2025	
Motion for a resolution		B10-0589/2025	15/12/2025	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T10-0339/2025	18/12/2025	Summary

Resolution on the arbitrary arrest and sentencing of academics Bahruz Samadov and Igbal Abilov in Azerbaijan

2025/3028(RSP) - 18/12/2025 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 477 votes to 7, with 69 abstentions, a resolution on the arbitrary arrest and sentencing of academics Bahruz Samadov and Igbal Abilov in Azerbaijan.

Since the beginning of 2025, the number of political prisoners in Azerbaijan has surged to almost 400 individuals, arbitrarily detained on politically motivated charges, among them civil society activists, opposition leaders, journalists, academics, and human rights defenders.

Igbal Abilov, a Talysh ethnic minority researcher and editor-in-chief of Talysh National Academy News, and Bahruz Samadov, a PhD student at Charles University, were sentenced to 18 and 15 years' imprisonment respectively on charges of high treason. The trials of both academics were held behind closed doors, in violation of international fair trial standards and the presumption of innocence. The alleged evidence consisted solely of contacts and exchanges with Armenian scholars.

Parliament strongly condemned the arrest, prosecution and sentencing of Bahruz Samadov and Igbal Abilov on politically motivated charges and called for their immediate and unconditional release. It expressed particular alarm at the misuse of national security provisions as tools for judicial harassment, intimidation, and the criminalisation of freedom of expression, peace advocacy and public criticism. Members also expressed deep concern at the continuing erosion of academic freedoms and cultural rights in Azerbaijan.

The resolution called on Azerbaijan to align its legislation with international human rights standards. It also urged the EU to consider **targeted sanctions** against responsible officials and to further support human rights and democratic governance in Azerbaijan.

Lastly, Parliament called for close monitoring of the cases by the EU Delegation in Baku and for progress on any future partnership agreement to be **conditional on tangible advances** in human rights, the rule of law and respect for EU values and principles.