

President of Azerbaijan
Ilham Aliyev
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Dear President Aliyev,

On 30 March, police detained Azerbaijani activist Bayram Mammadov. The same day the Sabunchu District Court sentenced him to 30 days of administrative detention for resisting lawful police orders. Amnesty International believes the charges are trumped-up. Bayram Mammadov had been released following the presidential pardon on 16 March marking the Nowruz new year holiday after spending more than three years in prison on fabricated charges,

Bayram Mammadov claimed at the appeals court hearing that he was ill-treated during this latest 30 March detention. His family and friends who attended the hearing told Amnesty International that Bayram Mammadov had visible bruises on his face. Bayram Mammadov's lawyer has been denied access to visit him.

Bayram Mammadov's family and friends believe he has been targeted for the interview he gave to local media (Turan News Agency) which was recorded days after his release. In the interview Bayram Mammadov said he did not regret painting a critical graffiti message on the statue of the former Azerbaijani President – the reason for his initial arrest on trumped-up charges in 2016.

I urge you to ensure that the Bayram Mammadov is immediately and unconditionally released as he has been detained solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression. I also urge you to ensure that he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment and ensure that allegations of ill-treatment in detention are effectively investigated. He must be given immediate access to his lawyer.

Yours sincerely,