

COP29

Special Report

November 2024



HYBRID ATTACKS AGAINST COP29

*Our society must not fall
victim to hybrid threats!*

The Commission of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of
Azerbaijan against Foreign Interference and Hybrid Threats

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From November 11–22, 2024, the beautiful city of Baku — where ancient heritage and modern innovation blend seamlessly — hosts a diverse gathering of global leaders, heads of international and regional organizations, representatives from NGOs and multinational corporations, leading scientists, and experts from various fields. Together, they will explore and discuss groundbreaking solutions for a sustainable future for all.

As a gesture of goodwill, this report aims to support various countries in addressing hybrid threats, while also reminding states involved in or supporting illegal activities related to these threats of their responsibility to uphold the principles of the UN Charter and the norms of international law.

Unfortunately, the Republic of Azerbaijan — currently hosting the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) — is facing intensifying hybrid attacks at a crucial moment, as the future of our planet and the well-being of humanity hang in the balance.

While such attacks were previously sporadic, since Azerbaijan's historic victory in the 44-day Patriotic War in 2020 and the full restoration of its sovereignty in 2023, our country has faced a systematic and coordinated campaign of disinformation and smear. Following Azerbaijan's selection as the host country for COP29 on December 11, 2023, these information operations have only intensified.

The scale and coordination of this campaign prompted Mrs. Sahiba Gafarova, Speaker of the Milli Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to direct the Commission of the Milli Majlis against Foreign Interference and Hybrid Threats to organize a public debate titled "*Hybrid Threats Against COP29*," which took place on October 21, 2024. The event provided a platform for a dynamic exchange of ideas among Members of Parliament, civil society representatives, think tank experts, and specialists in hybrid threats and cybersecurity, with the goal of informing the Azerbaijani public about the current situation. Following this, the present report was prepared, incorporating the insights from these discussions and data collected from open sources.

The report offers a detailed analysis of the two main types of hybrid threats - disinformation and lawfare - that are actively employed against Azerbaijan. It also identifies the sources, methods, and actors behind these threats.

Since Azerbaijan was elected as the host country for COP29, global media coverage has artificially shifted its focus to **the following criticisms:**

- Why a petrostate is hosting UN climate talks;
- Why Azerbaijan appointed a former oil executive as COP29 President-Designate;
- Azerbaijan's failure to include women on the COP29 Organizing Committee;
- "Human rights" concerns and the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace treaty issue.

The first three criticisms mentioned above may have some relevance to COP29; however, the issues of human rights and the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace treaty have no direct or indirect connection to the climate conference.

The report highlights the mechanisms used by certain countries to bypass widely accepted norms and principles of international law in their campaign against Azerbaijan.

Fact-based evidence demonstrates that networks operating under the guise of international human rights organizations are, in reality, pursuing specific agendas with the financial and political support of certain states, targeting designated countries. Furthermore, the funding mechanisms and the individuals managing these networks lack impartiality, often aligning with particular groups and serving the interests of Armenia and the global Armenian community.

The report further examines and exposes the activities of those who have traditionally engaged in hostility toward Azerbaijan and actively participate in anti-Azerbaijan campaigns. These include Armenian lobby organizations, wealthy members of the Armenian diaspora, and officials of the Republic of Armenia, who are often characterized by dual behavior — publicly advocating one position while acting differently depending on the circumstances.

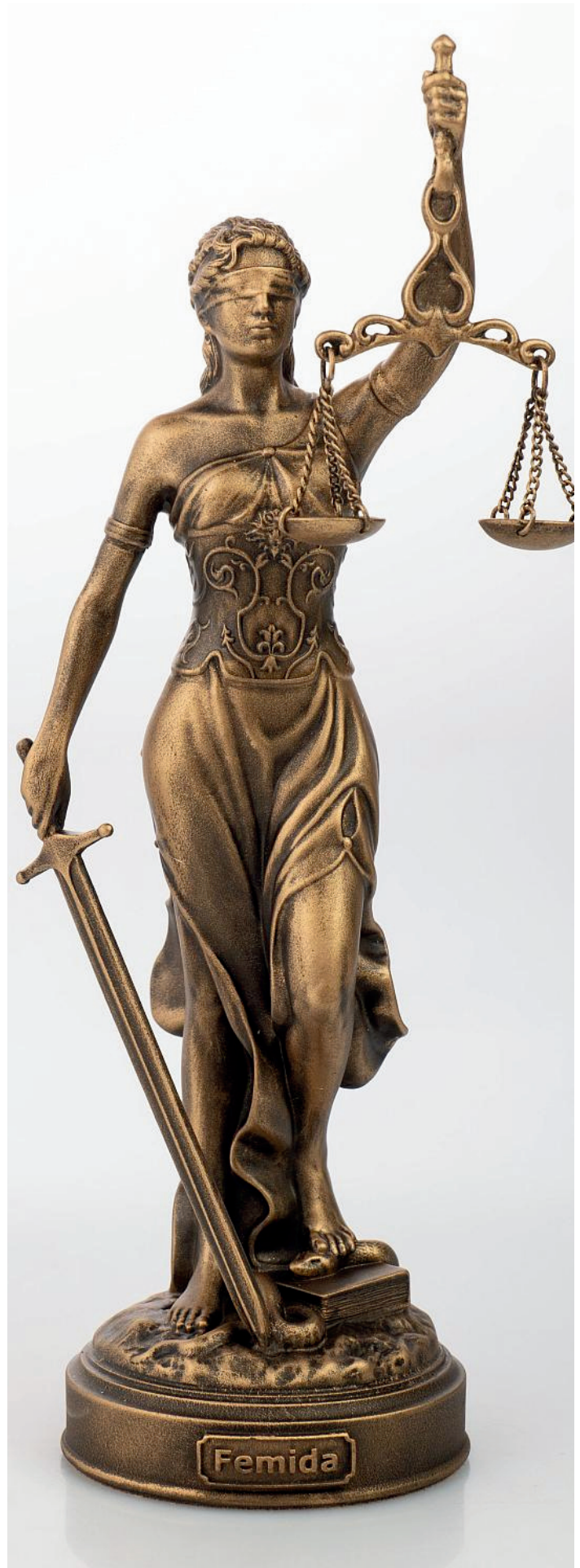
Additionally, the coordinated efforts of several top news outlets, along with certain "human rights" groups and the Armenian lobby, have attracted considerable attention. Their actions resemble a football match, with each party passing the ball to the next - using deceptive tactics and maneuvers to wear down the opponent and ultimately achieve their desired outcome.

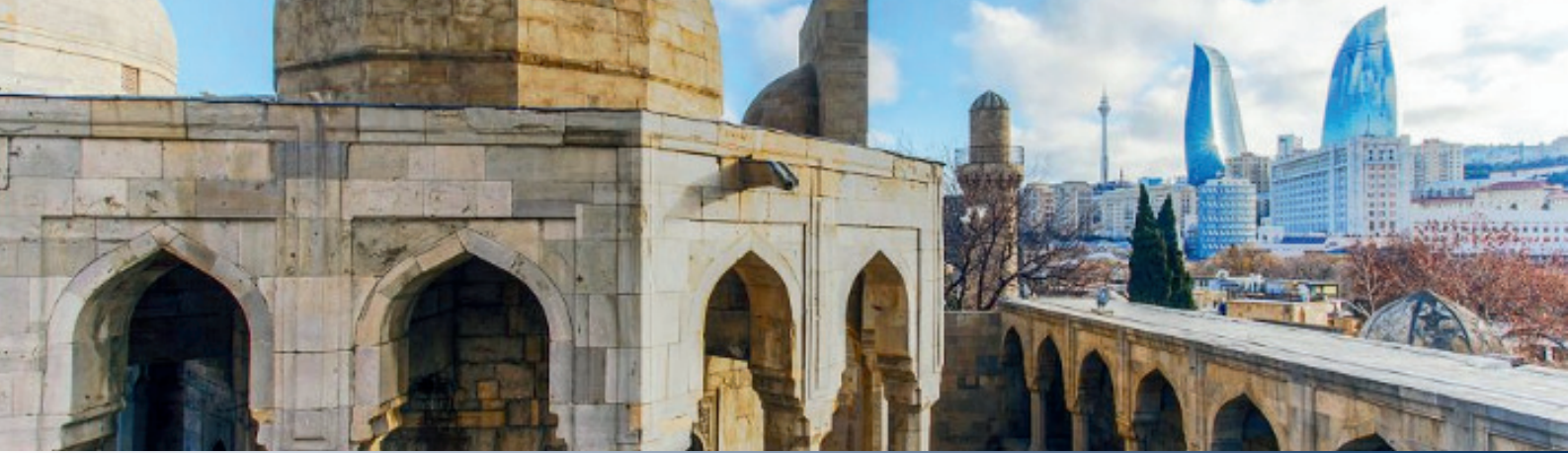
When discussing lawfare, it is important to note that the parliaments of various countries, along with international parliamentary organizations, are playing an active role in employing this particular form of hybrid threat. While such activities were previously sporadic, their coordinated and sustained nature is now clearly evident.

In the lead-up to COP29, several parliaments have used legal instruments as "weapons" to exert hybrid pressure. Notably, in October 2024 alone, actions contrary to the spirit of cooperation – overstepping mandates and attempting to interfere in Azerbaijan’s internal affairs—were taken by PACE, the European Parliament, and the national parliaments of the Netherlands, France, Switzerland, and the United States.

The report analyzes the social media campaigns and hashtags directed against COP29 in recent months, while also presenting statistics on the global media's coverage and interest in the event.

In the conclusion of this report, the Commission of the Milli Majlis against Foreign Interference and Hybrid Threats presents its recommendations for mitigating these threats and emphasizes the critical importance of international cooperation in addressing such challenges.





INTRODUCTION

On October 18, 1991, when the Constitutional Act *"On the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan"* was adopted, Azerbaijan had already endured four years of interference and threats from neighboring Armenia. During this period, nearly 300,000 Azerbaijanis — who had lived for centuries in their ancestral lands in today's Armenia — were forcibly displaced as a result of brutal ethnic cleansing.

After the Republic of Azerbaijan restored its independence, Armenia launched a military aggression to pursue its territorial claims, which had been openly asserted since 1987. This brutal conflict continued until May 1994, during which Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven adjacent districts were occupied. The violence culminated in the genocide of Azerbaijani civilians in the city of Khojaly, the loss of 20,000 lives, and the forced displacement of more than 700,000 Azerbaijanis from their homes.

Eventually, in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter and in line with the enforcement of four UN Security Council resolutions on the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, the Republic of Azerbaijan fully restored its territorial integrity and sovereignty under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, Supreme Commander-in-Chief, from September 27 to November 9, 2020, and on September 19-20, 2023.

Today, as a favorable environment for peace, cooperation, and progress has emerged in the South Caucasus region, the Republic of Azerbaijan is once again confronted with unjust threats. Powers that previously turned a blind eye to Armenia's 30-year military occupation and the violations of the rights of hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis are now launching coordinated hybrid attacks against Azerbaijan, in collaboration with the global Armenian community.

It appears that the objective of Armenia and its supporters is not regional revival, but rather destabilization.

The Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan has consistently acted within its mandate to firmly oppose any threats to the Azerbaijani people, its national and moral values, the country's integrity, security, economic development, international standing, laws, and other critical areas. In line with the powers granted by the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan,

the Milli Majlis established the Commission against Foreign Interference and Hybrid Threats on September 30, 2024.

The Commission is assigned to identify foreign interference and hybrid threats, developing policy recommendations to prevent these threats, and coordinate with the Milli Majlis's committees, relevant executive authorities, and judiciary bodies in addressing such threats effectively.

Since Azerbaijan was honored with the opportunity to host COP29 by the unanimous decision of 197 countries and the European Union, a new wave of hybrid attacks against Azerbaijan has regrettably begun.





INTRODUCTION

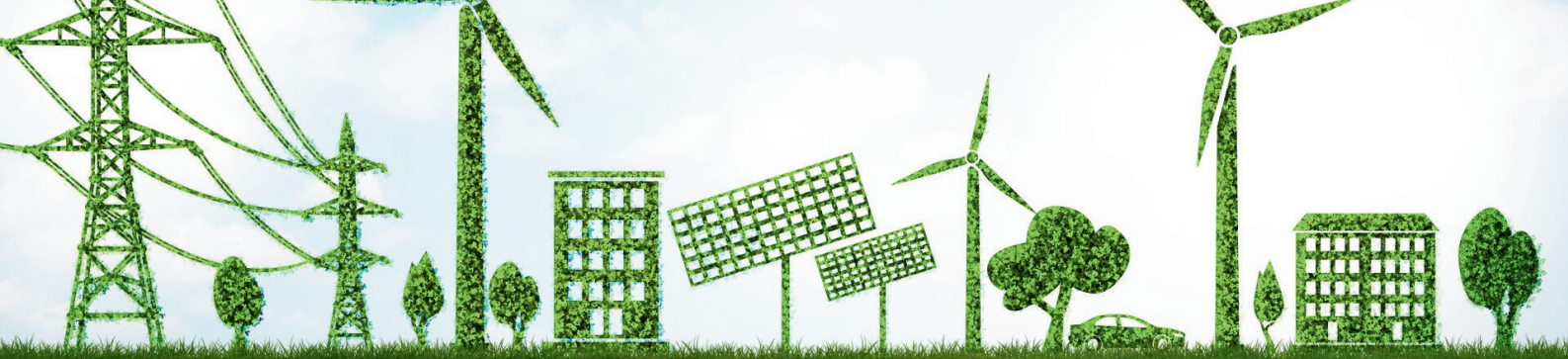
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Azerbaijan, which has successfully hosted numerous prestigious international events, now finds itself targeted by attacks designed to undermine its global reputation and advance certain interests through coercive pressure.

On October 21, 2024, our Commission held a public discussion on the topic of *"Hybrid Threats Against COP29,"* which generated considerable public interest. In the aftermath, this report was compiled, based solely on verified facts.

The report begins by identifying the primary types of hybrid threats directed against COP29 and Azerbaijan. It then offers a comprehensive analysis of the states and actors orchestrating these threats, examining the mechanisms they employ and the specific tools and resources being mobilized to execute these actions.





WHAT MAKES COP29 A SPECIFIC TARGET FOR THESE HYBRID THREATS?

8

Over the past three decades, extensive documentation on COP has been adopted, discussions held, and the international community kept informed of its proceedings. According to a 2024 survey released by the United Nations Development Programme, globally, 56 percent of respondents reported thinking about climate change on a daily or weekly basis, while 11 percent admitted to never considering it.

Given the profound global interest in climate change and COP as the primary summit addressing it, it is not hard to understand why certain "old friends" of ours have begun mobilizing against Azerbaijan.

In December 2023, immediately after Azerbaijan was granted the privilege of hosting COP29 by the unanimous decision of 197 countries and the European Union, a renewed wave of hybrid attacks targeting our nation commenced.

COP events are among the world's foremost and most prestigious international gatherings, distinguished by the presence of heads of state and government and the scale of global participation. To date, COP has been hosted in 28 different countries.

However, unlike previous hosts, Azerbaijan was allotted only 11 months, with a few additional days, to prepare for this monumental event that demands immense responsibility and resources, ranging from shaping the climate agenda to coordinating complex organizational matters.

Despite the unanimous decision by the international community to entrust Azerbaijan with hosting COP29, certain countries remain ill-intentioned, and indeed, openly antagonistic toward us. For those waging an "undeclared war" against Azerbaijan, this event presented "a unique opportunity" to launch hybrid attacks — an opportunity they were determined not to miss.

Yet Azerbaijan, a nation that chaired the Non-Aligned Movement from 2019 to 2023, leads several regional organizations past and present, and has, after nearly 30 years of Armenian occupation, legally reclaimed its lands, is not so easily swayed by such affronts. The real regret, however, lies in the fact that those orchestrating these assaults aim not only at Azerbaijan but also at jeopardizing the Earth's future, recklessly placing the fate of humanity itself at risk.



WHY HYBRID ATTACKS?

The definitions of hybrid threats provided by NATO, the European Commission, Hybrid CoE, and other institutions are largely consistent. Hybrid threats refer to the use of a range of tactics, including disinformation campaigns, cyberattacks, economic and diplomatic pressure, covert political maneuvering, and other disruptive actions by states or other "interested" actors to pursue [strategic] objectives. These actions are typically carried out without a formal declaration of war against the target country or institution.

Article 2, Paragraph 4 of Chapter I of the United Nations Charter stipulates that *"All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations."*

UNITED NATIONS CHARTER



ESTABLISHED
JUNE 26, 1945

This is precisely why many states favor hybrid threats — to evade international responsibility. By leveraging hybrid threat actors, they can further their malicious objectives while co-opting others as either unwitting partners or tools in their strategies. Naturally, as with any issue, there are exceptions. For example, some states, such as the Republic of Armenia, blatantly violate international norms and principles without facing significant consequences.

The primary form of hybrid threat directed at our country is disinformation, often coupled with slander campaigns. While the United Nations has acknowledged the absence of a universally accepted definition of disinformation, it generally defines it as the deliberate spread of false information by state or non-state actors with the intent to deceive public opinion and cause serious harm. According to the United Nations, disinformation can heighten tensions during crises and armed conflicts, lead to human rights violations, and destabilize state policies.

The second most commonly employed form of hybrid threat is lawfare, which blends legal means with warfare by weaponizing legal instruments and institutions against others. While a relatively recent term in modern discourse, lawfare has historically been a significant tool for exerting legal influence and pressure. Through this approach, a state seeks to manipulate legal systems and principles to further its political or military objectives. Examples of lawfare include resolutions passed by various parliaments, baseless international lawsuits and disputes, as well as the imposition of sanctions and threats of sanctions.

DISINFORMATION

During the 44-day Patriotic War in 2020 and the period that followed, national unity in Azerbaijan reached its zenith. Today, we are witnessing a series of disinformation and information campaigns aimed at fragmenting this unity, sowing division, undermining trust in state institutions, and tarnishing Azerbaijan's international standing. These efforts are propagated through both online and social media platforms. Unfortunately, some media outlets, claiming to be independent, are also complicit in these campaigns, seeking to portray Azerbaijan as being at fault, despite its just cause.

An analysis of the profiles actively campaigning against COP29 reveals a coordinated and large-scale effort, primarily driven by fake accounts. These fraudulent profiles manipulate content by posting identical, automated responses under the #COP29 hashtag, utilizing bot systems to sow confusion and disrupt international public opinion. In response, decisive measures are being taken to counter these activities.





Justice, along with the universal principles it upholds, is fundamentally rooted in laws, the rule of law, and respect for these laws. Lawmakers and legislative bodies entrusted with enacting and safeguarding these laws naturally earn a certain degree of public trust, respect, and hope.

However, it is regrettable that some lawmakers (MPs), who exploit the trust placed in them by their constituents, misuse the powers and responsibilities granted to them by the state for personal gain or to serve specific vested interests. The continued presence of such behavior over the years — where members of parliament prioritize the interests of external groups over those of their own state and constituents — can sometimes set a troubling precedent, encouraging others to follow this deviant path.

One of the most striking examples is Senator Robert (Bob) Menendez, who held prominent positions in the New Jersey legislature since 1986 and in the U.S. Congress from 1993 until August 2024. He was ultimately convicted on 16 counts, including illegally acting as an agent of a foreign government,

obstruction of justice, wire fraud, and extortion, all related to services rendered to foreign states. (See: doc. 1)

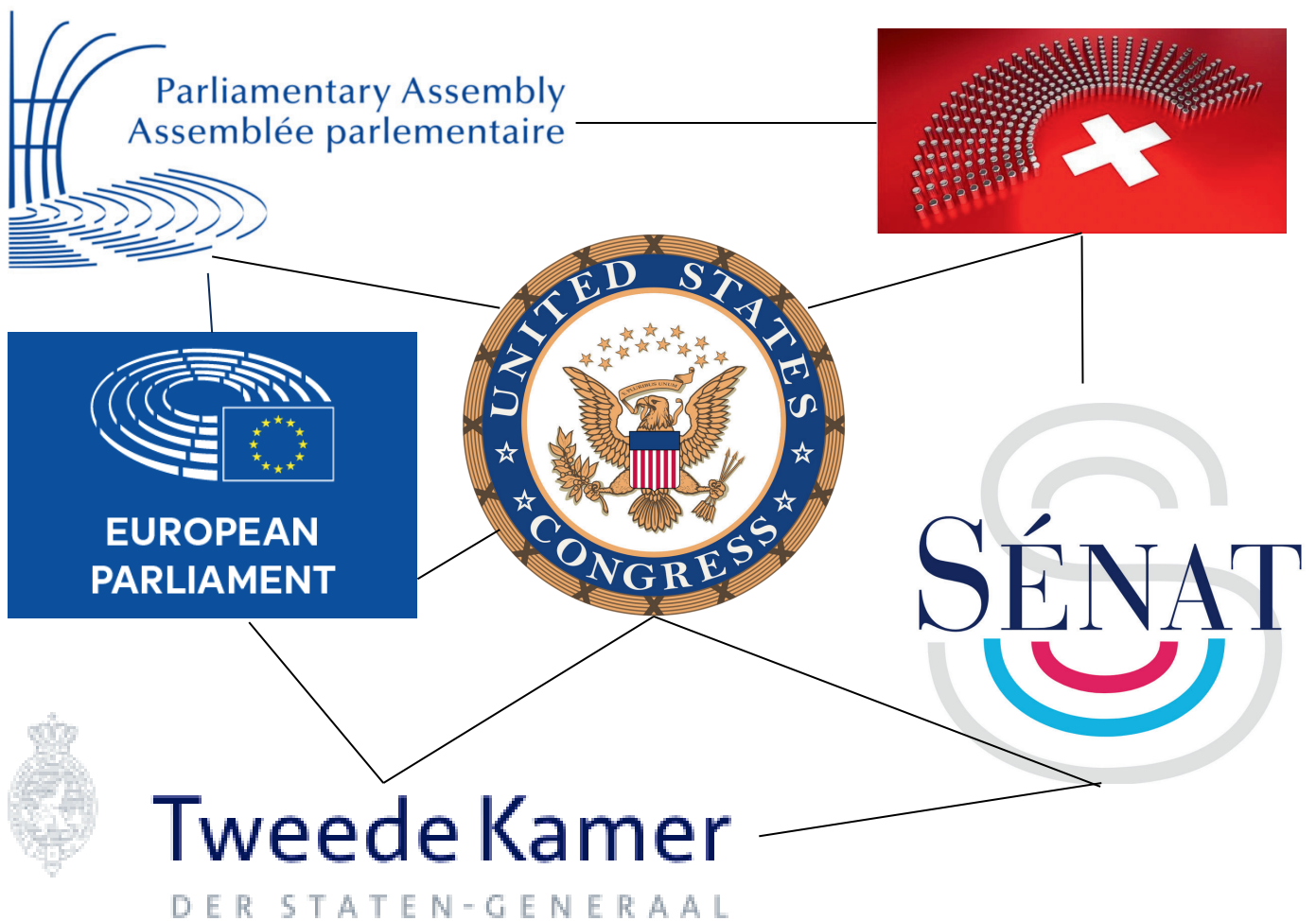
It is also noteworthy that Menendez, who frequently spearheaded anti-Azerbaijan initiatives and resolutions in the U.S. Congress, is married to Nadine Arslanian, an ethnic Armenian — a personal connection that likely amplified his animosity toward Azerbaijan.

Thus, the case of Bob Menendez illustrates how certain members of foreign parliaments exploit their positions to pass resolutions and decisions targeting Azerbaijan for personal or political gain. (See: docs. 2 & 3) Their objective is to create a legal framework at the parliamentary level, which they can then use to pursue "legal" claims against Azerbaijan in both domestic and international courts, drawing the country into prolonged legal disputes and attempting to impose economic and other sanctions. (See: doc. 4)



As COP29 drew near, it became apparent that several national and international parliaments are employing legal measures as "weapons" of hybrid threat and pressure. In October 2024 alone, instances were noted where the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), the European Parliament, and the parliaments of countries such as the United States, the Netherlands, France, and Switzerland acted against the spirit of cooperation, overstepping their authority and attempting to interfere in Azerbaijan's internal affairs.

One defining feature of hybrid attacks is their invisibility, not only to the general public but also to many senior officials within the affected states. These covert operations are typically executed by government personnel who are manipulated or influenced by certain groups, with the goal of destabilizing international relations and furthering their own interests. In the end, such actions harm the very states from which they originate, especially during periods of complex geopolitical instability.





PACE

14



Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

On October 1, 2024, PACE held debates under the theme “*Deteriorating situation of human rights, rule of law and democracy in Azerbaijan.*” These proceedings highlighted a coordinated agenda among Azerbaijan's longstanding critics, who were united in their accusations, which spanned issues such as COP29, relations with Armenia, human rights, media freedom, and more. A closer look at the individuals involved revealed significant ties to Armenian lobbying groups and the Armenian diaspora. (See: docs. 5, 6, 7 & 8)



Theodoros
ROUSOPOULOS



Frank
SCHWABE



Niklaus-Samuel
GUGGER



**Armen
GEVORGYAN**



Paul GAVAN



Azadeh ROJHAN



Lise
CHRISTOFFERSEN



Joseph ORELLY



MARKUS WIECHEL



Jone BLIKRA



Aurora FLORIDIA



Claude KERN



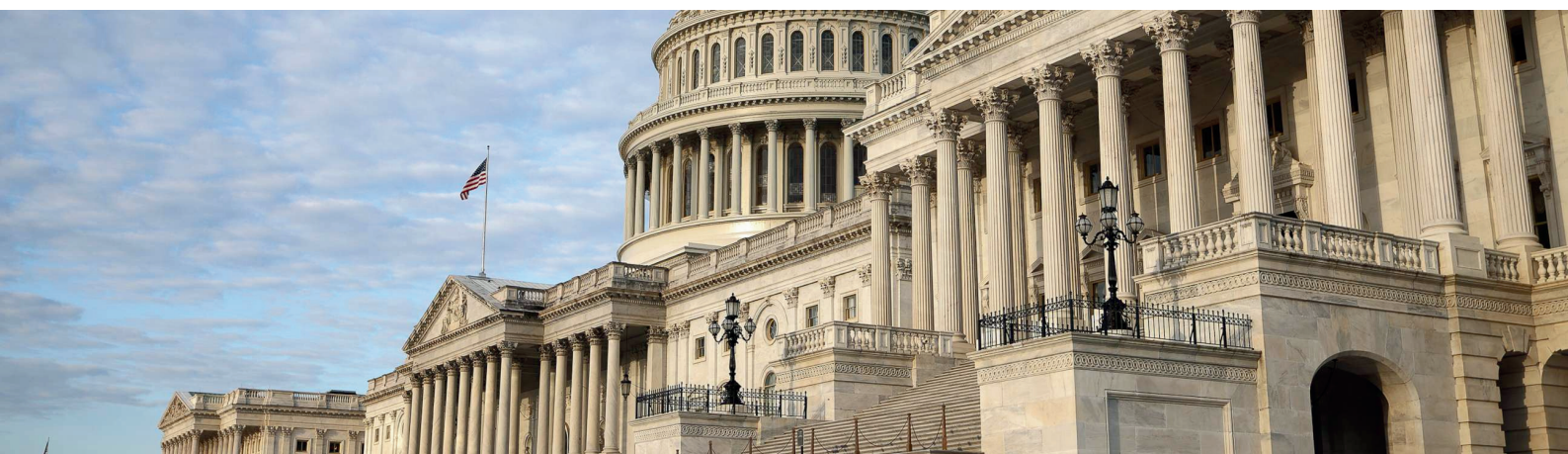
THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

15

On October 3, 2024, sixty members of the U.S. Congress urged the Secretary of State to apply increased pressure on Azerbaijan. Once again, familiar topics were highlighted: COP29, relations with Armenia, the release of individuals accused of war crimes and human rights issues. Notably, among the signatories were several congress members aligned with Bob Menendez's position, including his son Rob Menendez (NJ-08).

In their letter, these members of Congress cited organizations such as Human Rights Watch and Freedom House, along with Armenian authors and Armenia-based media outlets, to hold Azerbaijan accountable for various issues. (See: doc. 9) Interestingly, Freedom House was also referenced in the PACE debates as a key source for accusations against Azerbaijan.

This report will delve deeper into how these organizations — and several other international human rights bodies mentioned — are managed, funded, and utilized as instruments of hybrid threats.



MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS



Adam B. Schiff



Anna G. Eshoo



Barbara Lee



Brad Sherman



Brad Schneider



Chellie Pingree



Chris Van Hollen



Cory A. Booker



Dan Goldman



Daniel T. Kildee



Danny K. Davis



David G.
Valadao



Debbie
Stabenow



Dina Titus



Donald S.
Beyer Jr



Edward J.
Markey



Eleanor Holmes
Norton



Elizabeth
Warren



Frank
Pallone, Jr



Gabe Amo



Gary C. Peters



Grace F.
Napolitano



Grace Meng



Greg Casar



Haley M. Stevens



Jack Reed



Jacky Rosen



Jake
Auchincloss



James P.
McGovern



Jamie Raskin



Jan Schakowsky



Jared Huffman



Jim Costa



Joaquin Castro



John B. Larson



John P.
Sarbanes



Jonathan
L. Jackson



Josh
Gottheimer



Joyce Beatty



Judy Chu



Kathy Castor



Kevin Mullin



Linda T.
Sánchez



Lloyd Doggett



Lori Trahan



Mike Levin



Peter Welch



Pramila Jayapal



Robert J.
Menendez



Ron Wyden



Scott H. Peters



Sean Casten



Seth Magaziner



Sheldon
Whitehouse



Stephen F. Lynch



Susie Lee



Ted W. Lieu



Thomas R.
Suozzi



Tony Cárdenas



Zoe Lofgren

On October 10, 2024, the Dutch House of Representatives passed two anti-Azerbaijan resolutions introduced by MPs Isa Kahraman and Don Ceder. As in aforementioned resolutions, familiar themes were addressed, including Armenia, Armenian heritage, the release of alleged war criminals, and other unrelated issues. (See: doc. 10)



Isa Kahraman



Don Ceder



Chris Stoffer

Raymond
de RoonEric van
der Burg

Derk Boswijk

Jan
Paternotte

Kati Piri

Of particular note is that both Isa Kahraman and Don Ceder have close ties to the Armenian lobby and the Armenian Embassy in the Netherlands. Interestingly, on the same day the resolutions were passed, the Embassy hosted a celebration in The Hague to mark Armenia's 33rd Independence Day anniversary. (See: doc. 11) This timing suggests that the Dutch Parliament, in passing these resolutions, may have indirectly been aligning itself with Armenia in a unique way.

Photographic evidence confirms that Isa Kahraman, Don Ceder and Derk Boswijk attended a gathering organized by the Federation of Armenian Organizations in the Netherlands, held under the auspices of the Armenian Embassy on April 18, 2024. Additionally, Isa Kahraman's visit to Armenia in July 2024, along with Don Ceder receiving concert tickets as a gift from the Armenian Fund in the Netherlands, further underscores their alignment with Armenia's agenda. (See: docs.12 & 13)



SWISS PARLIAMENT

On October 15, 2024, a resolution introduced by co-rapporteurs of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Swiss Federal Assembly, a pro-Armenian Erich Vontobel (a label frequently used by Armenian media) and Nicolas Walder, echoed familiar themes — Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh, and the return of Armenians. Vontobel's close ties with the Armenian community are evident in his openly shared friendships on Facebook. (See: docs.14 & 15)

18

24.4259 MOTION

Forum sur la paix dans le Haut-Karabakh. Permettre le retour de la population arménienne

Submitted by:	<u>COMMISSION DE POLITIQUE EXTÉRIEURE CN</u>
Rapporteur:	<u>VONTOBEL ERICH</u> , <u>WALDER NICOLAS</u>
Submission date:	15/10/2024
Submitted:	Conseil national
State of deliberations:	Déposé



Erich Vontobel

IN FUNCTION

National Council

04.12.2023 –



Nicolas Walder

IN OFFICE

National Council

02/12/2019 –



THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

On October 24, 2024, the European Parliament adopted another anti-Azerbaijan resolution titled "*The situation in Azerbaijan, violation of human rights and international law and relations with Armenia.*" Once again, the resolution raised familiar themes found in other parliamentary discussions, including references to Freedom House. A closer examination of the members who supported the resolution reveals notable connections to Armenian interests and lobbying groups.

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MEPs denounce violations of human rights and international law by Azerbaijan

Press Releases PLENARY SESSION AFET 24-10-2024 - 12:57

- Parliament condemns repression of activists, journalists and opposition leaders, at home and abroad
- MEPs say Azerbaijan's abuses are incompatible with its hosting of COP29
- Call for the withdrawal of troops from Armenian territory

These facts and evidence illustrate a coordinated pattern of hybrid attacks against Azerbaijan within these parliaments, spearheaded by individuals with strong ties to the Armenian lobby. (See: doc. 16)



HOW DO THEY AVOID INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY?

20

As mentioned, global and regional powers, along with other key actors, employ various mechanisms to evade direct international accountability and accusations. Once a target country is selected, these actors leverage the influence of international NGOs focused on human rights and related issues — organizations they fund, shape, and often staff with their own personnel.



The process is simple: a "reputable" organization publishes a report on "democracy and human rights" issues in the target country, typically drawing from selective sources. These states then use the report as justification to launch targeted attacks. International media amplifies the narrative, driving the campaign forward, and a coordinated effort is set in motion to discredit the target, apply political and diplomatic pressure, and influence public opinion.



Founded in 1941 in Washington, D.C., Freedom House is a non-governmental organization that advocates for democracy, political freedoms, and human rights. Its first honorary co-chair was Eleanor Roosevelt, the niece of the 26th President Theodore Roosevelt and wife of the 32nd President Franklin D. Roosevelt. From its inception, Freedom House was recognized not only as a human rights organization but also as an instrument of political influence, engaging directly in various geopolitical matters, as outlined on its official website.

For instance, in July 1942, Freedom House appealed to President Roosevelt, urging action against the Nazis — essentially calling for war against another nation, with the First Lady at the helm of the organization. Additionally, Freedom House has openly acknowledged its role in advocating for the formation of NATO in 1949 and its expansion in 2023. A 2011 article in The New York Times further underscored its involvement in supporting Egypt's revolution. (See: doc.17) And there are numerous similar instances of Freedom House "advocating" or interfering in international affairs, demonstrating its active role in shaping global politics under the guise of promoting human rights.



Freedom House lobbies Roosevelt for action against Nazis

1942

In June 1942, Freedom House appeals to US President Franklin D. Roosevelt urging action against the Nazis for the "brutalities perpetuated against the people of occupied Europe."



NATO is formed 1949

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is formed as a check against Soviet aggression and influence. Freedom House was an early advocate for NATO and continues to support its expansion—most recently in 2023 with the addition of Finland and Sweden.

As for its financial sources, Freedom House is largely funded by the U.S. Department of State and federal grants from the U.S. government. Notably, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also listed as one of its annual donors.

(See: docs.18 & 19)

Under its current leadership, Freedom House's Board of Trustees is co-chaired by Jane Harman, a former nine-term member of the U.S. Congress from California. Known for her connections to Armenian lobby groups, Harman co-sponsored a resolution on the so-called "Armenian Genocide" in 2007.

Its interim president, Nicole Bibbins Sedaca, is a former U.S. State Department employee. (See: doc. 20) One of its vice presidents, Annie Boyajian — whose spouse is of Armenian descent — oversees policy and advocacy, managing Freedom House's collaboration with the U.S. government and other American human rights organizations.

The organization also employs several individuals of Armenian descent, further reinforcing its connections to Armenian interests.

These facts are far from incidental. The individuals in question maintain close ties not only with U.S. state agencies but also with the Armenian lobby. It is therefore no coincidence that Freedom House and similar organizations are frequently cited in appeals from U.S. lawmakers to Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in PACE debates, and in European Parliament resolutions calling for increased pressure on Azerbaijan. Parliament members with connections to Armenia and the Armenian lobby use these organizations as tools of hybrid attack, leveraging their reports and influence to further their political agendas. (See: docs. 21, 22 & 23)



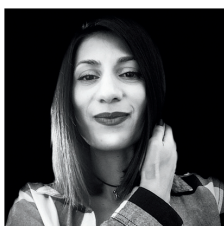
Annie Boyajian
Vice President



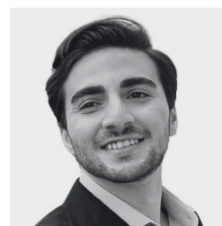
Roza Melkumyan
*Program Associate,
Europe and Eurasia*



Anna Sukiasyan
Program Associate



Victoria Andreyan
Consultant



Andranik Shirinyan
Country Representative in Armenia

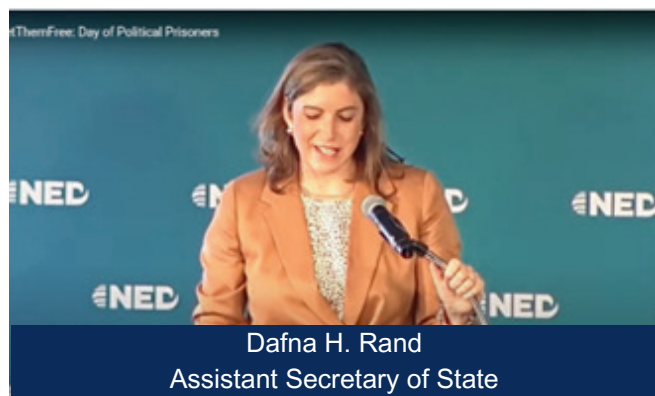
The National Endowment for Democracy (NED), a U.S. Congress-funded organization, announced it would host a virtual event on October 30 titled “Free Them All: Day of the Political Prisoner.” The event is organized in collaboration with the World Movement for Democracy (is a “network of networks”) and Freedom House. (See: doc. 24)

At first glance, the event appears to be a typical human rights initiative, with a brief mention of Azerbaijan. However, a closer look at the chronology of events reveals a different, more strategic narrative.

On October 1, the World Movement for Democracy released information about an Azerbaijani citizen facing criminal charges and held in custody for alleged offense. (See: doc. 25) Shortly after, on October 9 and 10, the NED and Freedom House issued statements, respectively, in alignment with this campaign. (See: docs. 26 & 27)

Just a week later, on October 16, Azerbaijani media were flooded with reports claiming that the imprisoned individual's health had seriously deteriorated and was now critical. (See: doc. 28) Almost immediately, foreign media outlets and propagandists operating in Azerbaijan began circulating this false narrative widely across online and social media platforms, transforming it into a full-scale information campaign.

For ordinary people unaware of the background, it might seem that these human rights organizations are simply appealing to the international community's humanitarian principles on behalf of someone in urgent need of medical attention. In reality, however, the groundwork for this narrative was laid a month in advance, with the aim of manufacturing public sympathy and rallying support for the October 30 event by fabricating concerns about the individual's health.



The most disconcerting aspect of this effort is that, during the event, while various topics were discussed, the organizers only displayed a picture of this individual in question without addressing his health or any other relevant details. In fact, despite earlier claims, this person's health remains stable.

The real intent behind this effort was to exaggerate the issue, fuel anti-Azerbaijani sentiment in the lead-up to COP29, and attempt to pressure Azerbaijan by generating negative publicity to serve specific interests.

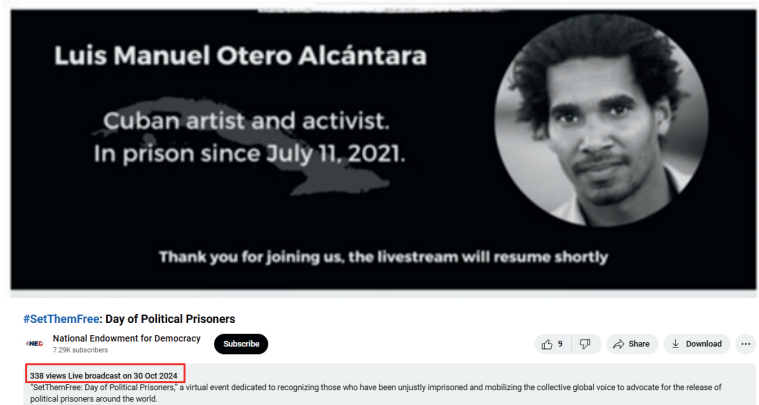
Meanwhile, these organizations have remained conspicuously silent on the genocide committed by Armenians in Khojaly, the unresolved fate of nearly 4,000 missing Azerbaijanis, and the ongoing plight of over a million refugees and former IDPs (now referred to as "former IDPs" following the liberation of territories) who have endured severe human rights abuses.

This case serves as a textbook example of disinformation and informational manipulation — some of the most insidious forms of hybrid threats.

P.S. It's no surprise that one of the event's moderators was **Annie Boyajian**, vice president of Freedom House, with a spouse of an Armenian descent.



P.P.S. By November 11, the event had only garnered 338 views on YouTube, highlighting that the contrived nature of such initiatives fails to resonate with the wider public. It seems that the real beneficiaries of these funds, provided by donors or taxpayers, are only the organization's staff themselves.



On November 8, 2024, the international NGO Global Witness released two pieces based on its "investigation": "COP29 Officials Facilitate Fossil Fuel Talks for Fake Investor During Undercover Investigation" and "COP29 for Oil Deals." The reports claim to document a video conference involving COP29's CEO, Elnur Soltanov, alleging that his conduct violated the Code of Conduct for UNFCCC Events and the Code of Ethics for COP officials.

How was this "operation" carried out?

Global Witness, posing as a Hong Kong-based fraudulent company, *EC Capital Holdings*, contacted COP29's young and inexperienced team members, expressing interest in sponsoring the event. They requested a Zoom meeting between COP29 CEO Elnur Soltanov and *EC Capital Holdings'* director Steven Li, scheduling the call for September 13 at 3:00 PM.

To add a veneer of credibility, Global Witness utilized illegal cyber deception and impersonation techniques, including the creation of a corresponding fake website for *EC Capital Holdings* (<http://eccapitalholdings.com>), and a fabricated LinkedIn profile for an individual named Steven Lee (<http://linkedin.com/in/steven-li-0997ba321...>).

These intelligence-like methods deceived COP29's young team members, leading to a video conference between Elnur Soltanov and an individual named Steven Lee. During the meeting various topics were discussed.

BBC

Home News Sport Business Innovation Culture Arts Travel Earth Video Live

COP29 will open in Baku on Monday and is the 29th annual UN climate summit, where governments discuss how to limit and prepare for climate change, and raise global ambition to tackle the issue.

However, this is the second year in a row the BBC [has revealed alleged wrongdoing](#) by the host government.

The BBC has been shown documents and secret video recordings made by the human rights organisation, Global Witness.

It is understood that one of its representatives approached the COP29 team posing as the head of a fictitious Hong Kong investment firm specialising in energy.

He said this company was interested in sponsoring the COP29 summit but wanted to discuss investment opportunities in Azerbaijan's state energy firm, Socar, in return. An online meeting with Soltanov was arranged.

In the following phase, the two articles mentioned above were released regarding the secretly filmed meeting, aimed at discrediting Azerbaijan's COP29 Presidency. Simultaneously, the materials were aired on the BBC. Contrary to the principles of impartial journalism, the BBC took statements from the COP29 official out of context, manipulating the information to promote a particular narrative.

It has been determined that the methods employed by Global Witness — resembling tactics more commonly associated with intelligence agencies — are inconsistent with the established principles governing the work of NGOs worldwide and may result in legal repercussions.

Thus, by participating in a coordinated information operation and disinformation campaign, Global Witness employed a hybrid attack aimed at undermining Azerbaijan in the lead-up to COP29.

In Solidarity for Climate and Human Rights

Demand Rights at COP is a network of civil society organizations working to ensure that Azerbaijan upholds its international obligations pertaining to human rights and climate justice.

The rare international spotlight on Azerbaijan as it prepares to host COP29 represents a critical opportunity to mark strong concern about its crackdown on independent civil society and press for an end to abuses.



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Investigations have revealed that several NGOs, either within coalitions such as the *COP29 Climate Justice Coalition* and *Demand Rights at COP* or in smaller groups, have launched targeted campaigns against Azerbaijan in the lead-up to COP29. These organizations produce one-sided reports and biased analyses aimed at discrediting the country. Most of these NGOs and foundations are based in Western countries, with governmental bodies and institutions serving as their primary donors. (See annex 1) It is notable that while some organizations disclose their donors openly, others provide only partial information, and some keep these details completely hidden.

Evidence suggests that, similar to actions within various parliaments, these NGOs use consistent narratives to focus their criticism specifically on Azerbaijan.

In solidarity, let us expand our organizing, strengthen our resistance, and intensify our fights for justice, for system change—for a new and better world!



The COP29 Climate Justice Coalition aims to bring together individuals and organizations to amplify the power of collective actions in the lead-up to and during COP29 to fight for climate justice and system change.

DEMAND RIGHTS AT
COP

A network of civil society organizations working to ensure that Azerbaijan upholds its international obligations pertaining to human rights and climate justice

SCROLL TO LEARN MORE

Demand Rights at COP Network, established on September 11, 2024, is a network comprising 33 NGOs and two individuals. This coalition addressed a petition – plagued with bias against Azerbaijan – to the international community. (See: doc. 29) They demand that Azerbaijan “*uphold its human rights and climate justice obligations, ending politically motivated imprisonments, holding accountable government officials responsible for torture and mistreatment, and revising laws to lift restrictions on civil society.*”

As of the publication date of this report, the coalition has published 20 articles critical of Azerbaijan on its website (domain registered on August 1, 2024) and has actively propagated its anti-Azerbaijan activities on the X platform.

The COP29 Climate Justice Coalition also has a website (domain registered on August 22, 2024), though it contains limited content; however, its slogans, such as “*In solidarity, let us expand our organizing, strengthen our resistance, and intensify our fights for justice, for system change – for a new and better world,*” are particularly striking.

Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) indicates that these “coalitions” were artificially formed by individuals connected to a person in Azerbaijan detained on specific criminal charges.

The actions and demands of these coalitions are an attempt to directly interfere in Azerbaijan's internal affairs.



JOIN THE COP29 CLIMATE JUSTICE COALITION

From Nov 11-22, 2024, world leaders will gather again for the annual Conference of Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. COP29 will be held in Baku and hosted and presided over by Azerbaijan.

HUMAN
RIGHTS
WATCH

Human Rights Watch (HRW)

Headquartered in New York, HRW keeps its financial sources confidential. (See: doc. 30) Since October 2023, HRW has published 65 articles critical of Azerbaijan. Amy Rao, the co-chair of HRW's Board, has connections with Armenian businessman Ruben Vardanyan's *Aurora*.

OMCT

SOS-Torture Network

World Organization Against Torture

With headquarters in Geneva, Brussels, and Tunis, OMCT has published 12 biased or inaccurate articles on Azerbaijan over the past year. Notably, the organization's Administration Officer (Operations), Jacqueline Shahinyan, is of Armenian descent.

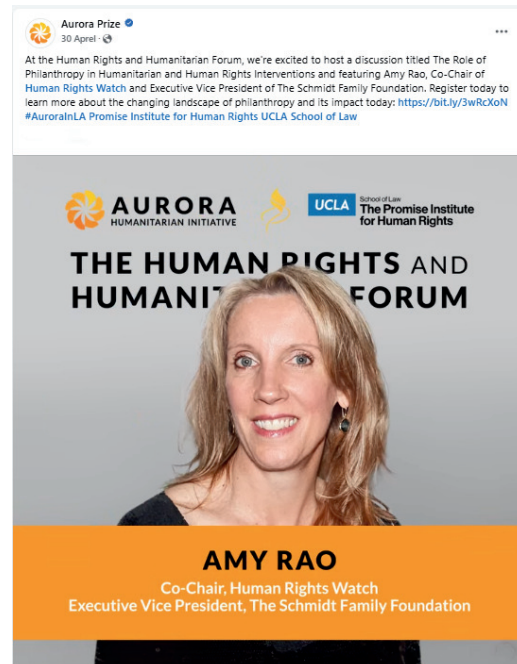
**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Amnesty International

Based in London, Amnesty International has been closely involved in anti-Azerbaijan activities, publishing 32 critical articles on Azerbaijan over the past year, 10 of which specifically concern COP29.

Amnesty's revenue for 2023 was \$370 million, but specific details on the sources and allocations of these funds remain undisclosed, with only general financial summaries provided.



Jacqueline Shahinyan
Administration Officer
(Operations)

IPHRInternational
Partnership
for Human Rights

International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR)

Headquartered in Brussels, IPHR is partially transparent about its financial sources. Donors include the Open Society Foundations (*founded by George Soros*), the European Union, the U.S. Department of State, and U.S. NGOs. However, specific amounts allocated and spent remain undisclosed.

The logo for FIDH (International Federation for Human Rights) consists of the lowercase letters "fidh" in a white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid purple rectangular background.

International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

Founded in 1922, FIDH brings together 188 organizations across 116 countries. In the run-up to COP29, FIDH has focused considerable attention on Azerbaijan, publishing six biased articles over the past year.

The European Commission, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Foreign Ministries of Finland, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France, the Swiss Embassy in Thailand, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, French Development Agency (AFD), City of Paris, the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF), Embassy of France in Mali, and the France Foundation are among FIDH's donors. (See: doc. 31)



Transparency International

Headquartered in Berlin, Transparency International's major donors include governmental bodies from Germany, Australia, France, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States, and the United Kingdom. It also receives funding from the European Commission, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Transparency International has also issued one-sided reports on Azerbaijan targeting COP29.

Since its independence in 1991, Armenia has persistently violated international laws and principles, initially through a nearly 30-year occupation of Azerbaijani territories and continuing in the years following its defeat. After Azerbaijan’s historic victory in the 44-day Patriotic War in 2020 and the full restoration of its sovereignty in September 2023, Armenia and the Armenian lobby groups have intensified their longstanding anti-Azerbaijan activities.



before

now

Vandalism by the Armenian diaspora targeting the monument to Azerbaijani poetess Natavan in France.

In general, anti-Azerbaijan efforts stem from three primary sources: Armenia, Armenian lobby organizations, and wealthy Armenian businessmen. Despite differing motivations, they are united by a common animosity toward Azerbaijan. They have unified their extensive resources to address this issue, bringing together international and local media organizations, Armenian foundations, and NGOs. (See annex 2)

Unfortunately, many countries have remained silent in the face of Armenia’s decades-long war crimes and acts of genocide against the Azerbaijani people. Some even continue to support those responsible for these crimes, using them as tools for political leverage.

Although Armenia formally supported Azerbaijan's hosting of COP29, it has consistently engaged in anti-Azerbaijan propaganda across multiple platforms, often raising unrelated issues to create artificial tension and undermine Azerbaijan's international standing. In the early stages and throughout the lead-up to COP29, Armenian officials sought to introduce topics entirely unrelated to the climate conference, such as peace negotiations, the peace treaty, and the release of individuals accused of war crimes. More recently, Armenian officials have frequently promoted the narrative that "Azerbaijan will use COP29 as a smokescreen to legitimize future escalations against Armenia." (See: doc. 32)



The Armenian government has enlisted several lobbying firms as part of its campaign against Azerbaijan, including "Rasmussen Global," led by former NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, and the "Friends of Armenia Network," which operates under his leadership. These entities have been actively involved in efforts to challenge Azerbaijan in relation to COP29.

Since March 2023, "Rasmussen Global" has been providing lobbying services to the Armenian government, drawing on the expertise of several former EU officials through the "Friends of Armenia Network."

MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS OF ARMENIA NETWORK



Raimundas Lopata



Anne-Laurence Petel



Charles Flanagan



Els Van Hoof



Anders Fogh Rasmussen



Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz



Mikuláš Dzurinda



Štefan Füle



Dietmar Nietan

Armenian lobbying organizations, especially prominent in the United States and several Western countries, play a critical role in the anti-Azerbaijan campaign, conducting unceasing propaganda against Azerbaijan. Their operations often involve attempts to influence officials through various means, including coercion, corruption, and political favors. Interestingly, similar methods are sometimes applied to Armenians residing in these countries, positioning them in a state of dependency on the lobbying groups.

Analyzing these organizations' activities reveals that they often pursue their own interests that may not always align with those of the Republic of Armenia.



Armenian National Committee of America

ANCA's most influential tool is its sway over certain members of the U.S. Congress. Any lawmaker who opposes or remains neutral toward ANCA's objectives is quickly targeted with smear campaigns and political pressure. The organization assesses lawmakers annually based on their pro-Armenian actions.



Pictured: US policymakers undermining American interests by appeasing **Ankara**, emboldening **Aliyev**, enabling **genocide**, and abandoning **Artsakh**.

Time for a total US policy reset.

Act now: anca.org/action



8:24 PM · Oct 18, 2024 · 1,815 Views

On October 18th post that signals the consequences for those who fail to align with ANCA's agenda.



**Follow****Comm'n on Frgn Interference & Hybrid Threats**  

@AzCntrHybThreat

The Commission of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan against Foreign Interference & Hybrid Threats | Official X account

34

The Commission of the Milli Majlis against Foreign Interference and Hybrid Threats jointly with the Media Development Agency has exposed ANCA's information campaign against COP29.

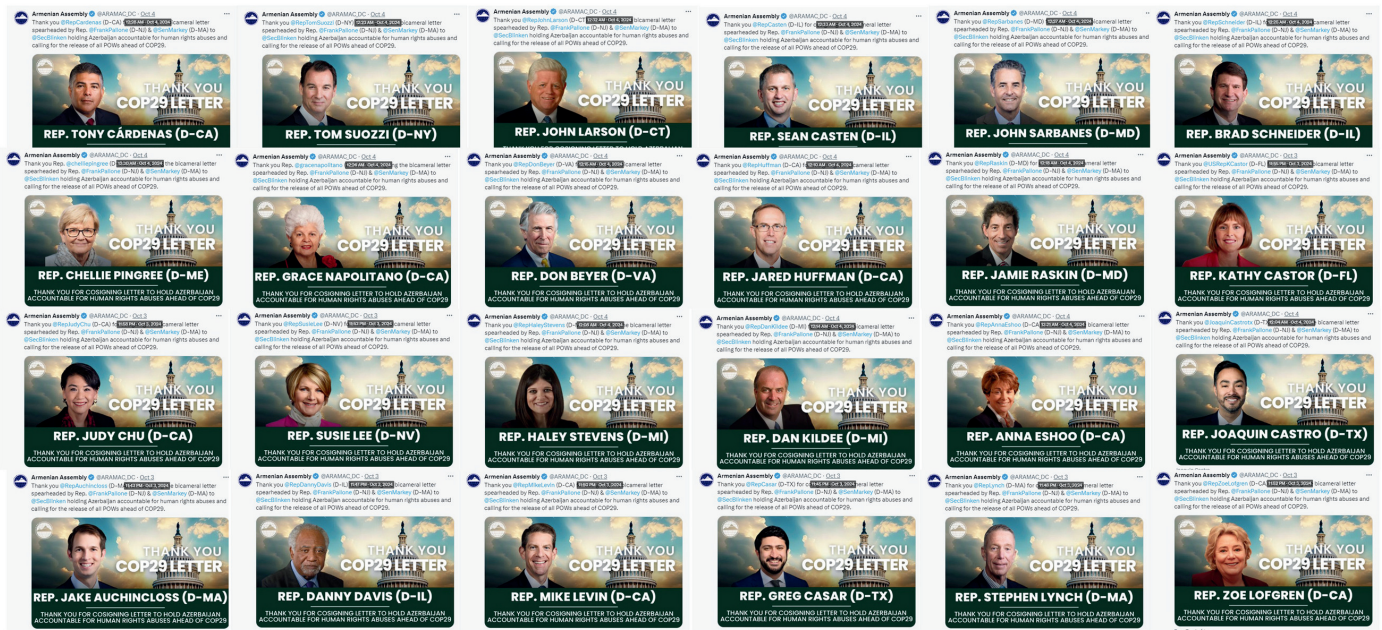
Investigations revealed that ANCA employed bot systems by simultaneously posting automated responses via mass inauthentic accounts with the same content using the **#COP29** and **#EndTheGagRule** hashtags. (See: doc. 33)

In this post, they imply that Azerbaijan is allegedly running a PR campaign related to COP29 and assert that they have successfully influenced the outcome, all while intentionally refraining from directly acknowledging their own involvement. (See: doc. 34)



Armenian Assembly of America

The Armenian Assembly of America (AAA) mirrors ANCA's activities, focusing on influencing both the U.S. Congress and the executive branch to further its anti-Azerbaijan agenda. The materials presented provide ample evidence of AAA's involvement in promoting its interests against Azerbaijan.



Oct 10 • 11 min
Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Convenes Hearing On The 1-Year Anniversary Of Azerbaijan's Assault On Artsakh
Co-Chairs James McGovern (D-MA) and Chris Smith (R-NJ) of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Congressional...



Sep 18 • 4 min
Armenian National Institute Launches Website Documenting the Nagorno-Karabakh Genocide
Washington, D.C. - The Armenian National Institute (ANI) announced the launch of a new website documenting the unfolding of the...



Oct 3 • 3 min
URGES ADMINISTRATION TO HOLD AZERBAIJAN ACCOUNTABLE FOR ITS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES
Bicameral Letter to Secretary Blinken Ahead of COP29 Urges Administration To Hold Azerbaijan Accountable For Dismal Human Rights Record
Washington, D.C. - Representative Frank Pallone, Jr (D-NJ) and Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) spearheaded a bicameral letter to Secretary of...



Sep 18 • 2 min
Rep. Schiff Introduces Bipartisan Artsakh Revenue Recovery Act of 2024 to Provide Relief For Armenians of Artsakh
Washington, D.C. - Today, Congressman Adam Schiff (D-CA) introduced the bipartisan Artsakh Revenue Recovery Act of 2024, alongside...



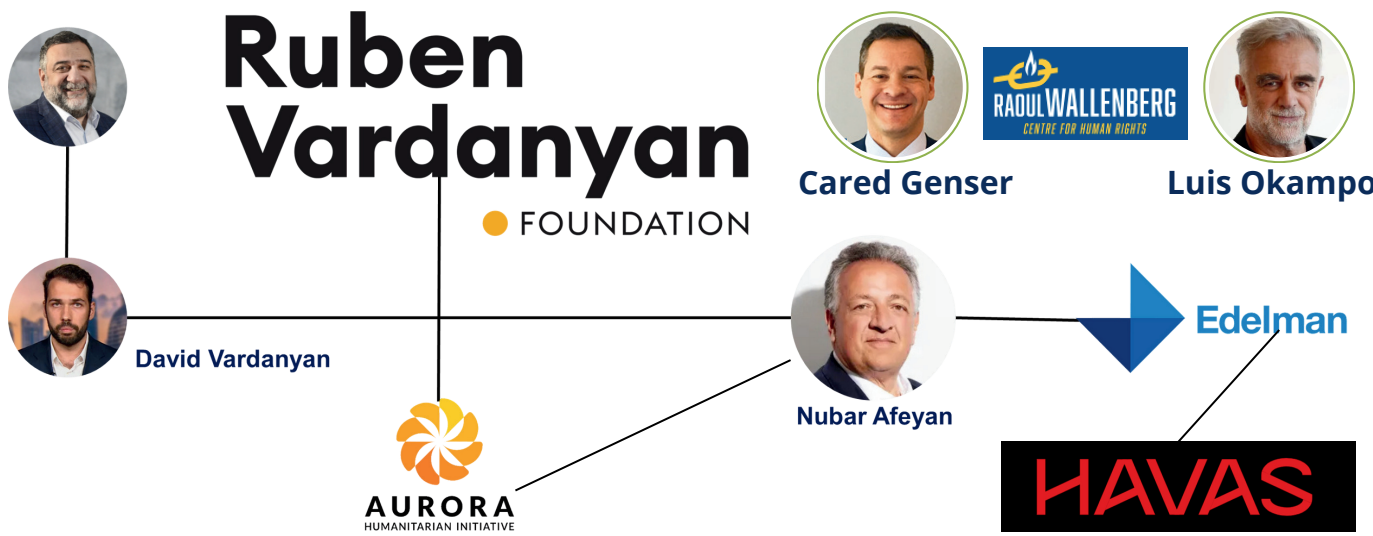
Sep 19 • 1 min
Assembly Co-Chair Van Krikorian's Testimony During Congressional Hearing on Human Rights in Azerbaijan Since the Fall of Nagorno-Karabakh
Assembly Co-Chair Van Krikorian testifying before the Congressional Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission alongside a new photo exhibit...



July 1 • 2 min
Fact-Finding Report by Seven Human Rights Groups Confirms Azerbaijan's Ethnic Cleansing of Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh
Photo credit: Vasily Kresyaninov / IAP News Washington, D.C. - Today, a jointly issued fact-finding report by Freedom House titled "Why..."

Wealthy Armenian Businessmen and the Foundations they lead

One of the key drivers behind the intensified negative campaign against COP29 has been the involvement of seasoned PR firms, brought in by wealthy businessmen of Armenian descent. Research reveals that individuals like David Vardanyan (son of Ruben Vardanyan) and Nubar Afeyan are using their financial clout and extensive networks to orchestrate hybrid attacks against Azerbaijan.



The Vardanyan-Afeyan partnership in this anti-Azerbaijan campaign involves enlisting high-profile PR firms, Hollywood personalities, influential American businessmen, prominent families, and even government officials. They strategically leverage public goodwill through initiatives like the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative and the Aurora Prize, presenting their actions as charitable endeavors. Recently, they added Chelsea Clinton, a member of the Clinton family, to the Aurora Prize Selection Committee. Notably, several members of the Selection Committee are actively engaged in anti-COP29 and anti-Azerbaijan efforts. (See: doc. 35)

THE AURORA PRIZE SELECTION COMMITTEE

- Lord Ara Darzi**
Chair
Co-Director of the Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London
- George Clooney**
Honorary Co-Chair
Co-founder, The Sentry, Humanitarian, performer and film maker
- Chelsea Clinton**
Member
Vice Chair, Clinton Foundation; Vice Chair, Clinton Health Access Initiative
- Leymah Gbowee**
Member
Liberian peace activist and women's rights advocate; Nobel Laureate

THE AURORA PRIZE SELECTION COMMITTEE

- Paul Polman**
Member
Business leader, climate and equalities campaigner
- John Prendergast**
Member
Human Rights Activist and Co-founder, The Sentry
- Dame Louise Richardson**
Member
President, Carnegie Corporation of New York
- Mary Robinson**
Member
Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; Former President of Ireland

Wealthy Armenian Businessmen and the Foundations they lead

The Vardanyan family has also enlisted the controversial *Edelman* (PR firm) and the *Perseus Strategies* (law firm).

Edelman – known for its past involvement with climate change and global warming denial campaigns, according to the investigations by *The Guardian* – has created social media hashtags like **#FreeRubenVardanyan** and **#FreeArmenianPrisoners** to drive a global campaign.

Follow @freearmenianprisoners on Facebook, Instagram and X for the latest content, updates, and information.

When sharing, amplify reach by using the hashtags #FreeArmenianPrisoners and #FreeRubenVardanyan.

#FreeArmenianPrisoners #FreeRubenVardanyan

37

Their strategy is to generate support through petitions, coordinated pressure campaigns, and mobilization of officials, private organizations, and media outlets to execute a mass attack on Azerbaijan. They created a website www.freearmenianprisoners.com that attempts to give the impression that supporters from 109 countries, including Azerbaijan, back Ruben Vardanyan's campaign. This illusion of widespread support is constructed by listing random names and countries. The statement depicts the application that clearly reveals which countries and organizations the company works with.

All supporters

Uliana Molinova, Azerbaijan

Aysu Nasibova, Azerbaijan

The appeal, titled "*Ruben Vardanyan and Other Armenian Leaders Mark One Year as Political Prisoners in Azerbaijan*," clearly indicates the countries and organizations with which *Edelman* is collaborating. (See: doc. 36) Furthermore, the French PR firm *Havas* is offering additional support to the Vardanyan family in this matter.

As for Perseus Strategies and its head, Jared Genser, who serves as international legal counsel for the Vardanyan family and is actively involved in anti-Azerbaijani activities, he is also leading a broad campaign against Azerbaijan through his NGO, Freedom Now.

This organization plays a central role in orchestrating anti-Azerbaijan efforts, alongside other prominent NGOs. The claims presented in the photo-facts provided are fully corroborated by these ongoing efforts. (See: doc. 37)

Another notable connection involves Luis Moreno Ocampo, an Argentine lawyer who served as the first prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. L.M.Ocampo is a member of the International Legal Advisory Board of the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights (RWCHR), where the U.S. Chair is Jared Genser of *Perseus Strategies*. Another link is Eduardo Eurnekian known as “*El Armenio*,” an Armenian billionaire from Argentina who leads the International Foundation named after Wallenberg.

In addition to name similarities, there are also close ties between leaders of these two organizations. The fact that Ocampo and Eurnekian are both from Argentine has raised further suspicions.

These connections likely contribute to Ocampo’s highly aggressive and biased stance against Azerbaijan in international forums, media outlets, and on social media.

In particular on the X platform, he has published over 120 negative posts against Azerbaijan and COP29 in the past month alone. (See: doc. 38)



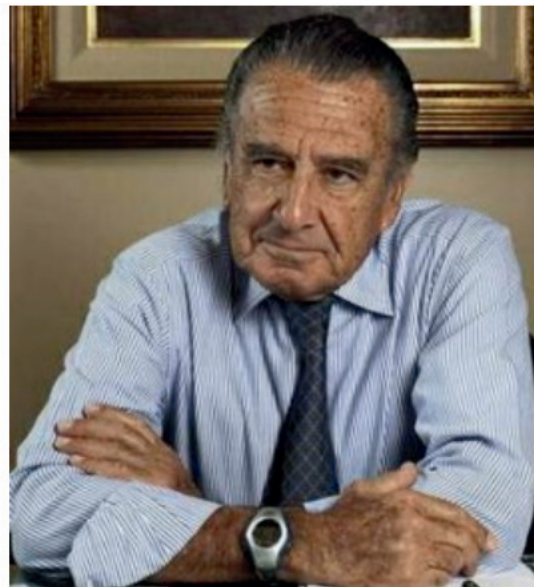
Luis Ocampo

Eduardo Eurnekian is an Argentine businessman of Armenian origin, born on December 4, 1932 in Buenos Aires. He is considered one of the most successful entrepreneurs in Latin America. His enterprises are related to infrastructure, agriculture, energy, retail and banking, in Argentina, Armenia and other countries around the world.

Together with the

International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation

Eduardo Eurnekian has decided to organize a tribute to the Armenian Holocaust Saviors worldwide.

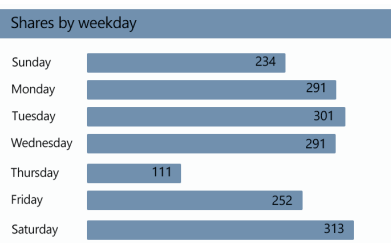
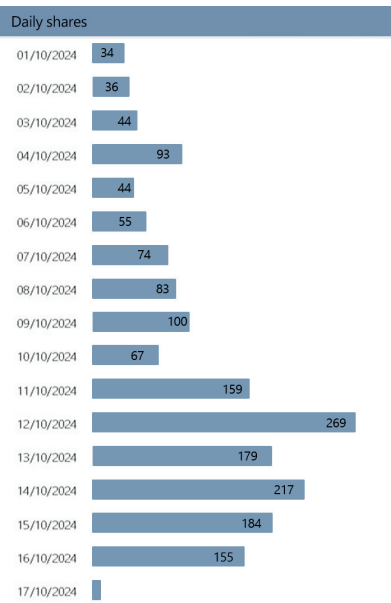


ANTI-COP29 CAMPAIGNS ON THE X PLATFORM

As outlined in present report, the anti-COP29 campaign conducted via social media employed various hashtags in a coordinated manner. Key hashtags include: **#COP29**, **#COPOUT29**, **#COP29EXPOSED**, **#COP29Exposed**, **#BoycottCOP29**, **#ProtestCOP29!**, **#FreeRubenVardanyan**, **#FreeArmenianPrisoners**, **#FreeArmenianHostages**, **#EndTheGagRule**, **#Greenwashing**, **#StopGreenwashGenocide**, **#StopWhitewashGenocide**.

Analysis of these hashtags reveals that the campaign is orchestrated from a central source, with most of the activity linked to profiles associated with Armenian interests.

Note: this analysis covers the period from October 1 to October 17, 2024

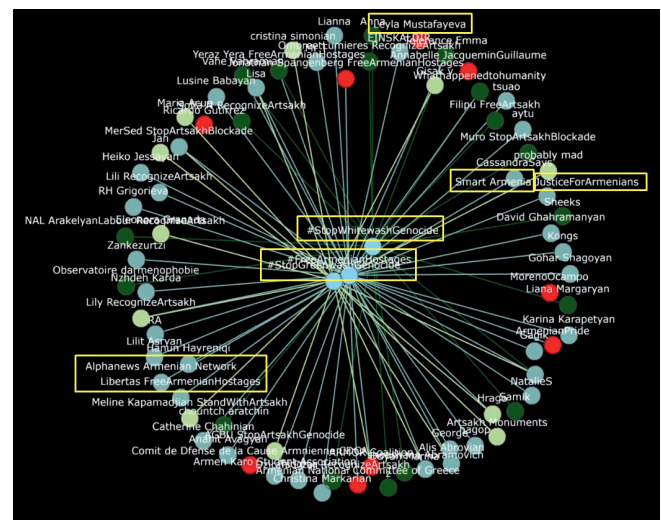


Top hashtags

1 -	#Greenwashing_hashtag	867
2 -	#FreeArmenianHostages_hashtag	759
3 -	#StopGreenwashGenocide_hashtag	641
4 -	#StopWhitewashGenocide_hashtag	128

Hashtags	TV	👁	💬	👤	👍	👎
1 > #StopWhitewashGenocide_hashtag	128	5,386	177	6	329	0
2 > #FreeArmenianHostages_hashtag	759	47,218	915	94	2,217	0
3 > #StopGreenwashGenocide_hashtag	641	39,057	785	81	1,751	0
4 > #Greenwashing_hashtag	867	249,057	2,422	526	6,786	0

As pointed out in the ANCA section of the report, many profiles utilized in this campaign are highly coordinated and rely on mass inauthentic accounts. These fake profiles engage in content manipulation by employing bot systems that simultaneously post automated responses to COP29-related content, thereby misleading public opinion.



As already mentioned, states with significant financial resources and political influence target other nations through international human rights organizations, focusing on a range of issues. These states have these organizations issue statements, attempt to damage the targeted country's international reputation, and threaten it with sanctions and other forms of pressure. At the same time, these states continue to produce articles that reflect a one-sided stance against the targeted country, filled with misinformation and slander. These articles are then widely disseminated through media outlets under their control and are distributed across global proxy media in various languages, including Azerbaijani.

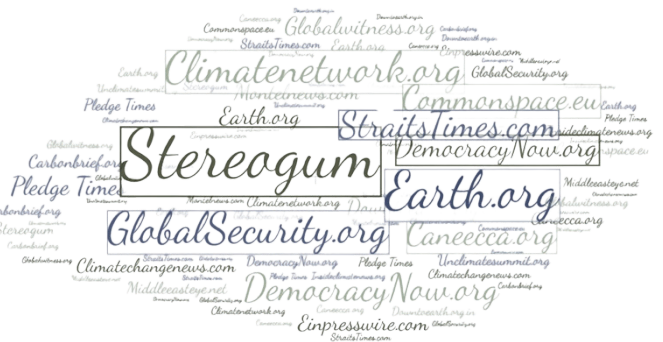
Immediately after Azerbaijan was unanimously awarded the hosting rights for COP29, a series of criticisms were launched in the international media.

The first objection raised was, ***"Why should a petrostate like Azerbaijan host the UN climate conference?"*** (See: doc. 39) Leading global media outlets seized on this issue, sparking significant controversy. The criticism implied that Azerbaijan, despite being a full UN member, was somehow unfit to host such an event, as if it were an outlier country disconnected from global norms and responsibilities. For context, it is worth noting that since the first COP in 1995, most of the host countries

have been fossil fuel producers, with only a few exceptions. Thus, accusing Azerbaijan of being inappropriate to host COP29, given this history, can be seen as hypocritical at best. Moreover, there was no similar criticism directed at the 197 countries and the European Union that collectively granted Azerbaijan this important role.

The second criticism focused on ***"Why Azerbaijan appointed a former oil executive as COP29 President-Designate?"*** (See: doc. 40) However, this unsubstantiated criticism ignored the fact that Mukhtar Babayev had been serving as Azerbaijan's Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources for over five years and had held senior roles in SOCAR's environmental division. So, this remark, too, quickly lost traction.

Following this, the third criticism centered on ***the alleged absence of women within the COP29 Organizing Committee***. After this issue was addressed, however, critics shifted back to the broader, yet irrelevant, topic of ***human rights***. This included ***calls for the release (without trial) of Armenian individuals who committed war crimes against Azerbaijanis, as well as the ongoing Armenia-Azerbaijan peace treaty negotiations***. (See: docs. 41 & 42) The latter issue remains a primary focus of the ongoing media campaigns targeting Azerbaijan in the context of COP29.



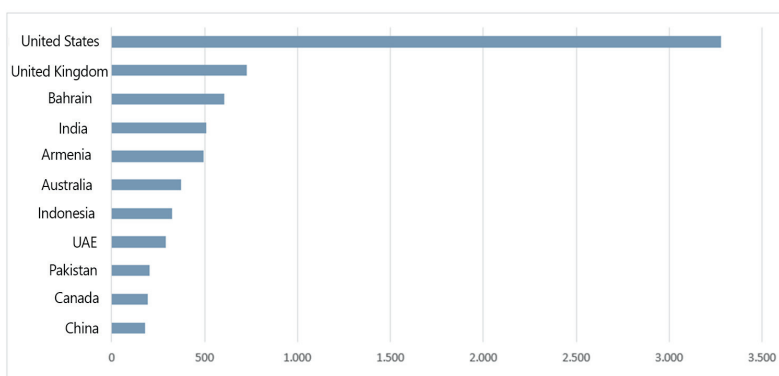
STATISTICS ON COP29-RELATED COVERAGE IN FOREIGN MEDIA

Between July 1, 2024, and October 13, 2024, there was extensive international media coverage surrounding Azerbaijan’s hosting of COP29. In total, nearly 10,000 articles were published across 113 countries during this period. The majority of these articles came from the United States (3,274 articles), the United Kingdom (725 articles), India (509 articles), and Armenia (491 articles)

The number of COP29-related articles in foreign media

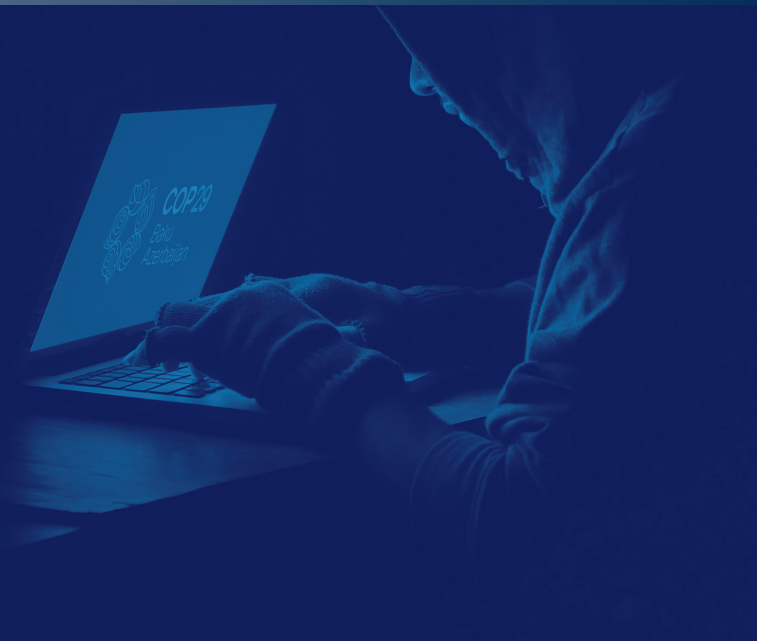
DATE: 01.07.2024 - 13.10.2024

Top countries by the number of articles



No	Country	Number of articles	Engagement	Media
1	United States	3,274	136.122.961	336
2	United Kingdom	725	67.433.523	152
3	Bahrain	605	7.720	47
4	India	509	38.101.320	102
5	Armenia	491	442.955	23
6	Australia	373	8.385.515	95
7	Indonesia	323	23.083.319	61
8	UAE	287	971.360	91
9	Pakistan	200	2.744.801	28
10	Canada	191	6.197.026	42
11	China	178	2.114.872	40
12	New Zealand	175	1.550.820	10
13	Nigeria	173	3.021.390	49
14	France	160	2.452.410	13
15	Syria	141	100	33
16	Malaysia	127	1.260.695	16
17	South Africa	91	24.955.620	29
18	Kenya	80	1.066.140	13
19	Philippines	80	1.370.020	14
20	Bangladesh	78	542.960	14

In earlier sections of the report, we presented evidence of the ANCA and other organizations creating fake websites to spread propaganda and engage in cyber-provocations against COP29. The investigation has uncovered that, in addition to the aforementioned fake websites, 26 other phishing sites were also created as part of a coordinated effort to deploy cyber-traps in the ongoing smear campaign against COP29.



<http://govazr.top>
<http://govazf.top>
<http://govazz.top>
<http://govazc.top>
<http://cop29.blog>
<http://govazn.top>
<https://govazj.top>
<http://govazm.top>

<https://cop29.site>
<http://govkaz.com>
<https://cop29.host>
<http://cop29.online>
<http://copout29.com>
<http://cop29info.com>
<http://cop29.carrd.co>
<http://stopcop29.com>

<http://cop29.neurotime.ai>
<https://cop29update.com>
<https://cop29interviews.com>
<https://stopcop29baku.github.io>
<https://dcb8co.wixsite.com/cop29>
<https://cop29accommodation.com>
<https://cop29-outlook.azureedge.net>
<http://cop29549.cdnflexcatering.com>

<https://cop29.agency>
<https://kayd.cop29.so>
<https://anca.org/cop29>
<http://protestcop29.org>
<https://sahan.cop29.so>
<http://boycottcop29.org>
<http://branddefense.pro>
<http://cop29interfaith.org>

At the time of this report's publication, the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) had been already underway. The COP29 Azerbaijan team, in collaboration with UNFCCC colleagues, had spent 11 months meticulously preparing for the event, ensuring a high level of organization and creating an optimal environment for discussions and actions focused on the future of our planet.

Due to the hybrid attacks targeting COP29, the fact that a small number of heads of state and government leaders chose not to attend this vital conference, where crucial issues were to be discussed, underscores the dangers of such campaigns. It also reveals how certain powers, by prioritizing narrow political interests, show little regard for the long-term future of humanity.

The analysis conducted for this report also revealed that, in addition to Azerbaijan, several other nations are subjected to hybrid attacks orchestrated by the same networks, legal organizations, and media outlets. However, what sets Azerbaijan apart is the leading role played by Armenian interests in driving the anti-Azerbaijan activities.

As this report indicates, unfriendly countries and certain actors are seeking to advance their political agendas while hiding behind various human rights organizations and media outlets to avoid direct accountability.

Statements and actions from officials in these countries further confirm that many of the large-scale attacks against Azerbaijan, orchestrated by specific organizations and media outlets, are in fact driven by these same individuals and political interests.

It is not by chance that on October 3, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan pointed out that a letter from 60 lawmakers of the U.S. Congress requesting pressure on Azerbaijan had actually been drafted within the U.S. Department of State.

This report highlights the two primary types of hybrid threats – disinformation and lawfare – employed against Azerbaijan in the lead-up to COP29.

Relevant government bodies dedicated to tackling disinformation work tirelessly to protect ordinary citizens — the primary targets of these campaigns — from being influenced by misleading narratives. One of the most effective strategies for countering such hybrid attacks is to swiftly provide factual corrections and, when possible, expose the underlying motives and key participants behind the disinformation. However, delays in response can allow falsehoods to take root, making it increasingly difficult to correct misconceptions and alter public perception once they have spread.

As presented in pattern 2, in the case of hybrid attack jointly organized by Global Witness and the BBC, a swift, three-language statement by the Commission

against Foreign Interference and Hybrid Threats clarified the reality of the situation, alleviating potential public confusion. Similarly, the statement by the Commission addressing ANCA's campaign on the X platform helped dispel disinformation.

In lawfare attacks, both the state and its people are targets. These hybrid attacks aim to weaken the state's political, economic, diplomatic, and military strength by calling for sanctions or filing lawsuits in international courts.

The recent coordinated efforts in the U.S., French, and European parliaments to impose sanctions on Azerbaijan, heavily covered in international and local media, exemplify the use of institutions as tools for political pressure, effectively weaponizing them as instruments of hybrid threats.

Such actions are unacceptable, as the norms and principles of international law prohibit interference in other states' internal affairs under any pretext.

This report serves as a call for vigilance among both the local public and the international community in recognizing and addressing such threats.

Our objective is to contribute to the global effort against hybrid threats and to urge states that support these activities to uphold the UN Charter, respect the principles of international law, and honor the sovereignty of nations.

An analysis of the hybrid attacks launched against Azerbaijan in the context of COP29 shows that the significant funds invested in these campaigns have largely been wasted. The campaigns have not reached a broad audience, nor have they achieved their objectives.

The Commission reckons that hybrid threats will not cease with COP29 and may, in fact, intensify in the future. To effectively counter these threats, it is crucial to enhance coordination among national agencies and strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation with international partners and allied countries at all levels.

**OUR SOCIETY MUST NOT FALL VICTIM TO
FOREIGN INTERFERENCE AND HYBRID THREATS!**

The Commission of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of
Azerbaijan against Foreign Interference and Hybrid Threats

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(page 12)

STATEMENT OF U.S. ATTORNEY DAMIAN WILLIAMS ON THE CONVICTIONS OF U.S. SENATOR ROBERT MENENDEZ AND TWO NEW JERSEY BUSINESSMEN

U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said: "Moments ago, a jury convicted Senator Robert Menendez of corruption offenses. This case has always been about shocking levels of corruption. Hundreds of thousands of dollars of bribes, including gold, cash, and a Mercedes-Benz. This wasn't politics as usual; this was politics for profit. Because Senator Menendez has now been found guilty, his years of selling his office to the highest bidder have finally come to an end. Corruption isn't costless: it erodes public trust, and it undermines the rule of law. That's why we're so committed to fighting it, regardless of political party. I want to thank the career prosecutors and law enforcement agents who meticulously investigated and prosecuted this case. Their work brought this egregious corruption to light. They are the best of the best, and I am enormously proud to serve with them."

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(page 12)

FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

ABOUT PRESS HEARINGS ACTIVITIES & REPORTS

09.21.2023
Chairman Menendez, Colleagues Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Sanction Aliyev Regime, Support Armenians Against Azerbaijan's Aggression
the Government of Azerbaijan by providing humanitarian assistance to Armenians in Nagorno Karabakh preventing additional security assistance from going to the Government of Azerbaijan and calling for additional...authority for section 907 of the Freedom Support Act banning most assistance to the Government of Azerbaijan It would also authorize...

09.19.2023
Menendez, Reed Condemn Azerbaijan Military Assault Against Nagorno Karabakh, Urge Restrictions on U.S. Aid to Azerbaijan
Committee and U S Senator Jack Reed D R I the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee condemned Azerbaijan s assault against Nagorno Karabakh and urged the cut off of U S assistance to the Aliyev regime...Government of Azerbaijan in Nagorno Karabakh and announce that United States will not extend of its waiver of Section 907 of the FREEDOM...

09.19.2023
Chairman Menendez Statement on Azerbaijan's Assault in Nagorno-Karabakh
Foreign Relations Committee issued this statement after Azerbaijan launched an assault on innocent civilians in Nagorno Karabakh I strongly condemn Azerbaijan s brazen assault today on innocent civilians President...

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(page 12)

FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

ABOUT PRESS HEARINGS ACTIVITIES & REPORTS

09.14.2023
Chairman Menendez Opening Remarks at Committee Hearing Assessing the Crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh
WASHINGTON Today U S Senator Bob Menendez D N J Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee delivered the following opening statement at this morning s full Committee hearing Assessing the Crisis...European and Eurasian Affairs at the U S Department of State I have to be honest with you said Chairman Menendez I don t understand when we come...

09.12.2023
Chairman Menendez Delivers Floor Speech Urging Action to Prevent Genocide in Nagorno-Karabakh
Relations Committee delivered remarks on the Senate floor on the ongoing ethnic cleansing in Nagorno Karabakh calling on the United States and the international community to respond and hold President Aliyev...Rwanda or Serbian forces in Bosnia Mr President it is from the Human Rights Defender s Office in Nagorno Karabakh And it is from August Only...

08.15.2023
Menendez, Padilla Urge UN Security Council Resolution to End Blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh
of Nagorno Karabakh including allowing unfettered humanitarian access to Armenians in Nagorno Karabakh As the government of Azerbaijan threatens to ethnically cleanse the people of Nagorno Karabakh through...For eight months Azerbaijan has gradually tightened a blockade meant to deprive Armenians in Nagorno Karabakh access to essential goods...

07.21.2023
Chairman Menendez Introduces Foreign Policy Priorities as Amendments to National Defense Authorization Act
assault on eastern Armenia and more than two hundred days into the Aliyev regime s blockade of Nagorno Karabakh s indigenous Armenian population it is clear that Azerbaijan has both used offensive force and...pressure Baku to finally end its aggressive actions toward Armenians I stand with the people of Nagorno Karabakh who are facing the threat of...

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(page 12)

H.R.8141 - Azerbaijan Sanctions Review Act of 2024

118th Congress (2023-2024) | [Get alerts](#)

BILL Hide Overview X

Sponsor: [Rep. Titus, Dina \[D-NV-1\]](#) (Introduced 04/26/2024)


Committees: House - Foreign Affairs; Judiciary

Latest Action: House - 04/26/2024 Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. ([All Actions](#))

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(page 14)

armenianweekly.com/2024/08/28/the-region-in-brief-89/

PACE President Theodoros Roussopoulos **criticized** Azerbaijan's decision to blacklist and ban certain European lawmakers from entering the country, arguing it undermines democratic principles and could worsen Azerbaijan's position within PACE. Head of the Swedish delegation Markus Wiechel expressed little surprise at the ban on six Swedish deputies, calling it predictable given Azerbaijan's track record, referring to the **ethnic cleansing of Armenians from Artsakh**. Wiechel praised the Swedish delegation for their principled vote against Azerbaijan's actions.



PACE President Theodoros Roussopoulos (Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe)

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(page 14)

02.06.2016

Vor einem Jahr: Frank Schwabe hält Rede zum Gedenken an den Völkermord an den Armeniern

Frank Schwabe hält Rede zum Gedenken an den Völkermord an den Armeniern



Redebeitrag von Frank Schwabe (SPD) am 24.04.2015 um 09:43 Uhr (101. Sitzung, TOP 25 + ZP 5)

Vor gut einem Jahr sprach Frank Schwabe anlässlich der 1. Lesung zum Völkermord an den Armeniern im Deutschen Bundestag. Heute soll die Resolution verabschiedet werden.

doc - 7
(page 14)Markus Wiechel •
Member of the Swedish Parliament

We, the undersigned Members of the Sweden-Armenia Friendship Group of the Swedish Riksdag and members of the Swedish delegation to PACE, condemn Azerbaijan's reported blockade of the Lachin Corridor. The blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh threatens to disrupt gas supplies and remove the primary source of food, heat, hot water, and electricity to 120,000 Armenians. This will risk severe humanitarian consequences.

We immediately call Azerbaijan to urgently reopen the corridor to ensure free movement through the corridor and security of movement along the corridor, in line with the trilateral statement of 9 November 2020.

Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

October 3, 2024

The Honorable Antony Blinken
U.S. Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

As we approach the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), hosted by Azerbaijan in November, we recognize a significant opportunity for the United States to strengthen regional ties and clean energy cooperation in the South Caucasus. As COP29 approaches, we request that the State Department press Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and the Government of Azerbaijan to take tangible measures that support regional peace, uphold human rights protections, and adhere to international laws and norms.

We urge the State Department to press for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners, hostages, and POWs, including ethnic Armenians, to enable a more conducive environment for successful diplomacy at COP29. Azerbaijan's record on human rights remains deeply concerning, with no improvement noted by watchdogs. Human Rights Watch has consistently reported Azerbaijan's "appalling human rights record," with abuses escalating unabated through 2023.¹ Freedom House ranks Azerbaijan with a "democracy percentage" of 1%² and a "global freedom score" of 7 out of 100.³

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(page 17)

Reception dedicated to the 33rd Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Armenia was organized in The Hague

doc - 8
(page 14)Mr. Claude KERN
France, ALDE, Spokesperson for the group
18:05:58 | EN | FR | VOVideo EN | OV
Print intervention

Thank you, Mister Chairman.

Dear colleagues,

Nine months after taking the decision to suspend the rights of the Azerbaijani delegation in our Assembly, we meet again to debate the deteriorating situation of human rights, the rule of law and democracy in Azerbaijan.

In January, when I was representing the Chairman of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), I pointed out in the chamber that the Monitoring Committee had examined the situation in Azerbaijan on several occasions over the previous months, notably during the latest visits by the co-rapporteurs.

My colleague Mr Mogens JENSEN drew an uncompromising conclusion on the serious violations of the principles of democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Monitoring Committee deplored the Azerbaijani delegation's lack of co-operation in the monitoring process, and was particularly disappointed by the fact that the co-rapporteurs on Azerbaijan were denied access to the persons detained for political reasons.

In January, when we refused to ratify the credentials of the Azerbaijani delegation, we left the door open, indicating that this decision could be reviewed should we see any significant improvement in the areas mentioned by our rapporteur.

Unfortunately, the situation in Azerbaijan has deteriorated rather than improved, and I condemn the decision by the Azerbaijani Ministry of Foreign Affairs to declare *persona non grata* the 76 members of our Assembly – including myself – who voted against ratification of the Azerbaijani delegation's credentials last January.

President ROUSOPOULOS expressed himself very clearly and firmly in August. I would like to thank him and quote him, as I agree with every word he used: "This is a more than regrettable signal, which only makes Azerbaijan's current position within the Council of Europe more difficult. Member states are committed to democratic standards: blacklisting those who have voted their conscience can only backfire.

The last presidential election campaign was a travesty of democracy, against a backdrop of increasing repression of independent media and potential opponents. Repression also took place during the campaign for the recent parliamentary elections. The OSCE election observation missions were highly critical in both cases.

In early September, Amnesty International stressed that "the alarming new arrests and detentions of people critical of the government must not be ignored. The international community must condemn them in the strongest possible terms. Over the past two weeks, during the election campaign, two prominent figures have been arrested on trumped-up charges, and others have been threatened and harassed".

Nor can I forget Azerbaijan's constant hot and cold attitude towards the negotiation process underway with Armenia to achieve a just and lasting peace in the South Caucasus, or the hostile ventures it is making towards France, notably in New Caledonia.

What is Azerbaijan really after? Does it still adhere to the values of the Council of Europe? This is the fundamental question we must ask ourselves with lucidity, in the hope that this debate will lead it back onto the path of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

Thank you.

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(page 17)

Motion	October 10, 2024	
Motion by members Kahraman and Ceder on committing to the protection of Armenian cultural heritage both within the EU framework and within the framework of the Hague Convention UNESCO 1954	21501-02-2947	Submitter I. Kahraman Member of Parliament, NSC + 3 others
Resolution: Adopted.		
Motion	October 10, 2024	
Motion by Member Ceder and co. on increasing pressure on Azerbaijan, together with other European countries, to release all Armenian prisoners of war as soon as possible	21501-02-2949	Submitter DGM Ceder Member of Parliament, Christian Union + 7 others
Resolution: Adopted.		

doc - 12
(page 17)Embassy of Armenia in the Kingdom
of the Netherlands

A concert dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide in The Hague

18 April, 2024



On 18 April, at the initiative of the Embassy of Armenia in the Netherlands and the Federation of Armenian Organizations in the Netherlands, a concert dedicated to the 109th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide was held in The Hague. The concert was attended by members of the Dutch Parliament Mr. Don Seder, Mr. Isa Kahraman and Mr. Derk Boswijk, Director of Europe at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Erik Weststrate, public and political, cultural figures, as well as representatives of the Armenian community.

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Don Ceder



Christen
Unie

Gifts

- Received from the Armenia Fund Netherlands 2 tickets for a concert of the Gurdjieff Ensemble in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. The value of the tickets is €78,-. 28-01-2024
- Received from Elsevier Weekblad the book 'Minister's Handbook' worth €14.95. 04-04-2023
- Receive the book '21 secrets of a strategic dialogue' worth €24.95. 04-04-2023
- Received from Publisher Noordhoff a Large Bosatlas. The value is unknown. 07-04-2022

Isa Kahraman



MSC

Secondary functions

For some functions, MPs are paid, other functions are unpaid. More information about secondary functions can be found on the full [list of secondary functions](#).

To travel

- 22-08-2024 - 25-08-2024 Rome, Italy
ICLN: Congress of Catholic Representatives
Paid: At own expense
- 07-07-2024 - 13-07-2024 Georgia and Armenia
Working visit of the standing committee on Foreign Affairs
Paid: House of Representatives of the States General

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(page 18)

NEWS.am
<https://news.am>

16 members of Switzerland parliament send written ...

Sep 19, 2024 — The pro-Armenian member of The Federal Assembly—the Swiss Parliament, Erich Vontobel, with the signatures of 15 other MPs, on Thursday sent ...

ABC media
<https://abcmedia.am>

Swiss MP addresses country's executive regarding Artsakh ...

Sep 19, 2024 — Today, Erich Vontobel, a pro-Armenian member of the Swiss Parliament, sent a written request signed by 15 other members of Parliament to the ...

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Erich Vontobel

Friends

See all friends

1,375 friends



Vardan Tadevosyan



Marcel Rieder



Agnes Büttler-Avagian



Joel Veldkamp



Sarkis Shahinian



Dave Buttler-Avagian

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(page 19)

Fx Bellamy
@fxbellamy

Le Parlement européen a voté à une très large majorité la résolution que nous portions pour dénoncer la #COP29 à Bakou et obtenir enfin des sanctions contre le régime d'Aliyev. Pour le peuple Arménien, la cause de la liberté, et la sécurité de nos pays.

Translate post



Azerbaïdjan : le Parlement européen juge les violations des droits de l'homme par Bak...
From lefigaro.fr
9:47 PM · Oct 24, 2024 · 51K Views

Miriam M. Lexmann
@MiriamMLex

The Armenian cultural & religious heritage of Nagorno Karabakh is a core part of our shared European Christian heritage. It must be protected!

I'm thankful to all colleagues, experts & participants who joined us today at @Europarl_EN to discuss ways to protect this rich heritage



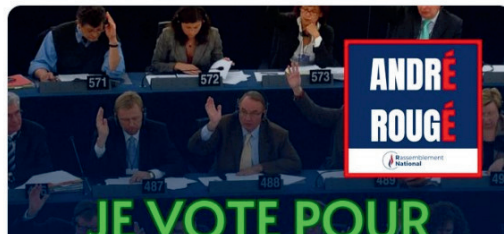
Tigran Balayan and 6 others

André Rougé
@AndreRougeOff

A VOTÉ ✓

J'ai voté en faveur de la résolution condamnant les agissements de l'Azerbaïdjan. Ses ingérences dans la France des Outre-mers et le sort réservé aux Arméniens du Haut-Karabagh sont inacceptables.

Translate post



Marina Mesure
@MarinaMesure

✓ VICTOIRE !
La résolution dénonçant les exactions de l'Azerbaïdjan et l'exil forcé de 100 000 Arméniens du Haut-Karabagh a été adoptée.

Nous, eurodéputés, refusons de financer le régime criminel d'Aliyev au travers d'un accord gazier entre l'UE et Bakou.

Pour la paix dans le Caucase.

Translate post



The Left in the European Parliament and Les Insoumis-es au Parlement

Assita Kanko MEP
@Assita_Kanko

De huidige mensenrechtenschendingen door Azerbaïdjan zijn onverenigbaar met het feit dat het land gastheer is van COP29 (29ste United Nations Climate Change Conference).

Vandaag heb ik gestemd voor de resolutie van het Europees Parlement over de situatie in Azerbaïdjan, de schending van de mensenrechten, het internationaal recht en de betrekkingen met Armenië.

Wij veroordelen met klem de repressie door het Azerbaïdjaanse regime, zowel binnen als buiten het land, tegen activisten, journalisten, oppositieleiders en anderen, waaronder EU-burgers, een repressie die in de aanloop naar COP29 aanzienlijk is toegenomen.

Ook de rechten van etnische Armeniërs worden systematisch geschonden. De wereld heeft na de gebeurtenissen in Nagorno-Karabach gezien hoe brutaal Azerbaïdjan heeft opgetreden tegen

Alexandre Varaut
@AlexandreVaraut

L'Azerbaïdjan poursuit une campagne de destruction contre l'Arménie, civils et monuments chrétiens en ligne de mire.

L'UE ne peut plus rester passive face à cette barbarie.

C'est une question de justice : soutenons l'Arménie sans délai !

Translate post

Michael Bloss
@micha_bloss

Die Klimakonferenz findet in Aserbaidschan statt – einem Land, in dem sich das Regime durch den Verkauf von klimaschädlichem Öl und Gas finanziert.

Aber nicht nur das. Das Regime tritt die Menschenrechte mit Füßen, Kritiker*innen werden brutal unterdrückt.

So wie Dr. Gubad Ibadoghlu, ein führender Kritiker der staatlichen Öl- und Gasindustrie.

Ein Thread actionnetwork.org/forms/freiheit...

Mounir Satouri
@MounirSatouri

Unfortunately, Gubad Ibadoghlu, the Green candidate for the Sakharov Prize, will not be the 2024 winner.

I will remain committed to defend his rights and demand his release, especially with COP29 coming up in a few days. The fight continues alongside her daughter @BayramovaZhalia

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(page 21)

The New York Times | <https://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/15/world/15aid.html>

U.S. Groups Helped Nurture Arab Uprisings

By Ron Nixon
April 14, 2011

WASHINGTON — Even as the United States poured billions of dollars into foreign military programs and anti-terrorism campaigns, a small core of American government-financed organizations were promoting democracy in authoritarian Arab states.

The money spent on these programs was minute compared with efforts led by the Pentagon. But as American officials and others look back at the uprisings of the Arab Spring, they are seeing that the United States' democracy-building campaigns played a bigger role in fomenting protests than was previously known, with key leaders of the movements having been trained by the Americans in campaigning, organizing through new media tools and monitoring elections.

A number of the groups and individuals directly involved in the revolts and reforms sweeping the region, including the April 6 Youth Movement in Egypt, the Bahrain Center for Human Rights and grass-roots activists like Entesar Qadhi, a youth leader in Yemen, received training and financing from groups like the International Republican Institute, the National Democratic Institute and Freedom House, a nonprofit human rights organization based in Washington, according to interviews in recent weeks and American diplomatic cables obtained by WikiLeaks.

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FREEDOM HOUSE, INC. STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES Year Ended June 30, 2023 (With Comparative Totals for 2022)

	2023			2022
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Total
Support and revenue				
Federal grants	\$ 93,979,673	\$ -	\$ 93,979,673	\$ 79,606,961
International public agencies	702,158	-	702,158	1,055,339
Corporations and foundations	1,074,578	4,718,272	5,792,850	5,700,463
Individual contributions	1,559,013	1,882,511	3,441,524	7,336,263
Other income	50	-	50	6,229
Net assets released from restrictions	5,978,526	(5,978,526)	-	-
Total support and revenue	103,293,998	622,257	103,916,255	93,705,255

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(page 22)

COP29: Remarks as prepared for delivery by Nicole Bibbins Sedaca

October 29, 2024

Virtual Press Briefing

Nicole Bibbins Sedaca, interim president of Freedom House:

WRITTEN BY



Nicole Bibbins Sedaca

Interim President
@NicBibSed

In early November, the world's leaders, environmental activists, and researchers will gather in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, for the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29), the United Nations' annual forum on climate change. The venue was chosen not because of the government's unwavering dedication to reversing climate change. Quite the contrary.

This year marks the third year in a row that the decision-making body of the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change is being presided over by an authoritarian petrostate with an abysmal human rights record. The hosting of COP 29 in Azerbaijan is a global public relations (PR) effort to normalize the Azerbaijani government on the global stage, as it commits some of the world's worst human rights abuses and seeks to cover up its track record. We cannot allow this to happen.

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FREEDOM HOUSE, INC.

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC AGENCIES Year Ended June 30, 2023

Funding Source	Contract Number	Program Title	International Agencies Expenditures	Amount Provided to Subrecipients
The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMF)				
		Protecting Belief: A Rapid Response Fund for Religious Freedom		
NMFA	4000006113	Religious Freedom	\$ 177,909	\$ 15,000
		Protecting Belief: Psycho-social Support to Victims of Religious Persecution		
NMFA	4000003297 / WAS-MRF-	2020-01	221,441	77,571
NMFA	4000006359	Freedom on the Net	58,925	-
NMFA	4000004343	Freedom on the Net	251,532	-
Total Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs			709,807	92,571
Total Expenditures of International Public Agencies			\$ 709,807	\$ 92,571

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(page 22)

Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515


October 3, 2024

The Honorable Antony Blinken
U.S. Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

As we approach the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), hosted by Azerbaijan in November, we recognize a significant opportunity for the United States to strengthen regional ties and clean energy cooperation in the South Caucasus. As COP29 approaches, we request that the State Department press Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and the Government of Azerbaijan to take tangible measures that support regional peace, uphold human rights protections, and adhere to international laws and norms.

We urge the State Department to press for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners, hostages, and POWs, including ethnic Armenians, to enable a more conducive environment for successful diplomacy at COP29. Azerbaijan's record on human rights remains deeply concerning, with no improvement noted by watchdogs. Human Rights Watch has consistently reported Azerbaijan's "appalling human rights record," with abuses escalating unabated through 2023. Freedom House ranks Azerbaijan with a "democracy percentage" of 1% and a "global freedom score" of 7 out of 100.¹



Mr Joseph O'REILLY
Ireland, EPP/CD

18:31:45 EN (VO) FR

Video EN | OV

Print intervention

Freedom House has designated Azerbaijan as one of the most authoritarian states. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)'s Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) have grave reservations about the recent elections establishing firmly a family monarchy.

Arbitrary arrests, indefinite detentions, severe beatings and torture are a common feature. Three hundred and nineteen individuals are in prison on political charges.

At the heart of all of this is the fact that the COP conference is coming to Baku, and there's an effort to clear the streets, to remove all protests, to, in some way, "sanitize" the place, to create a false impression of calm upon the arrival of the international delegations.

The Armenian prisoners of war are being mistreated and not being released. It's shocking that we have Vaclav Havel prizewinners and finalists in jail, and it's shocking that we still remain without peace on the borders.

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(page 22)

European Parliament 2024-2029



TEXTS ADOPTED

P10_TA(2024)0029

Situation in Azerbaijan, violation of human rights and international law and relations with Armenia

European Parliament resolution of 24 October 2024 on the situation in Azerbaijan, violation of human rights and international law and relations with Armenia (2024/2890(RSP))

N. whereas the Azerbaijani laws regulating the registration, operation and funding of NGOs are highly restrictive and arbitrarily implemented, thus effectively criminalising unregistered NGO activity; whereas Freedom House's 2024 index ranks Azerbaijan among the least free countries in the world, below Russia and Belarus;

doc - 24 (page 23)

NED NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY
SUPPORTING FREEDOM AROUND THE WORLD

GRANTS REGIONS ABOUT >

LIVESTREAM - #SETTHEMFREE: DAY OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

October 30, 2024
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

doc - 25 (page 23)

WORLD MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRACY About Networking Issues

New Report on Azerbaijan "Quest for Justice in a Climate of Unprecedented Repression"

October 1, 2024 NEWS

As Azerbaijan prepares to host the next UN COP29 in November, the **Anar Mammadli Campaign** has continuously raised alarms about the weaponization of the legal system in the country to harass and repress independent voices. In this report, the Campaign highlights that amidst an unprecedented level of repression, Azerbaijan consistently disregarded calls to improve its human rights record and has failed to meet its obligations as a member of the Council of Europe. With 319 political prisoners in the country and almost no space for independent civil society actors, **Oleksandra Matviychuk** of Ukraine, Nobel Peace Laureate and Steering Committee member of the World Movement for Democracy urges the international community to support the fight for human rights in Azerbaijan. "Our message to Anar is loud and clear: we are here to uphold the rule of law for all, because we see what happens to you when it is scorned."

Access the full report here.

doc - 27 (page 23)

doc - 26 (page 23)

NEDEmocracy @NEDEmocracy Oct 9

Today there are 1 million+ political prisoners worldwide. On Oct. 30, join @MoveDemocracy and @freedomhouse for a #SetThemFree virtual event with released political prisoners @vkaramurza & @hishamkassem and family members @ekaramurza & José Carlos Zamora.

Livestream - #SetThemFree: Day of Political Prisoners - NATIONAL ENDOWME...
From ned.org

Freedom House Countries Freedom Map Issues Perspectives

PERSPECTIVES October 10, 2024

Ahead of COP29, the International Community Must Advocate for the Respect of Human Rights

During the UN's annual convention on climate change in Baku next month, democracy's defenders have an opportunity to hold the Azerbaijani regime accountable for its human rights violations—and to push for change.

doc - 28 (page 23)

Ali Karimli @AliKarimli188

I am deeply alarmed by the health of political prisoner Anar Mammadli's health in detention and the failure to provide him with necessary medical care. Anar Mammadli is one of Azerbaijan's most esteemed intellectuals, far more than just an election expert. He is an

AzeriWatchdog @AzeriWatchdog

The health of Anar Mammadli is deteriorating rapidly. He is currently in prison, is being denied medical care, and is being denied a day by day.

Florian Imringer @FlorianImringer

This worries me immensely: the health of our friend, Anar Mammadli, continues to deteriorate in prison in Azerbaijan. There is no other solution but to make a public statement by now.

Please join the effort for Anar's immediate and unconditional release #FreeAnar

Anar Mammadli Campaign #FreeAnar #COP29 @FreeAnar - 20h

We are alarmed by the deteriorating health of Anar Mammadli, who is held on pre-trial detention in Azerbaijan.

He should be examined & receive adequate health care. In line with his constitutional rights and international human rights law.

6:55 PM · Oct 16, 2024 · 138 Views

Amerikannın Səsi

Vəkil: Anar Məmmədinin səhəti günü-gündən pisləşir

— Hazırda həbsdə olan Seçkilərin Monitorinqi və Demokratiyanın Tədrisi (SMDT) mərkəzinin direktoru Anar Məmmədinin səhətinin günü-gündən pisləşdiyini deyilir.

Facebook

Azadlıq Qəzeti - Anar Məmmədinin səhəti günü-gündən ...

— Anar Məmmədinin səhəti günü-gündən pisləşir. Onun müayinə olunması, analizləri alınması, yoxlanılması və müalicəsi ilə bağlı ehtiyatlı müjərilərin heç bir ...

Arqument.az

Anar Məmmədinin səhəti pisləşir

— Seçkilərin Monitorinqi və Demokratiyanın Tədrisi Mərkəzinin (SMDT) direktoru, hazırda həbsdə olan Anar Məmmədinin səhəti günü-gündən pisləşir.

Turan.az

Anar Məmmədinin səhəti pisləşir

— Vəkil deyir ki, Anar Məmmədinin belində, boğazında ağrılar var. Eyni zamanda baş hərəkətlərindən də azad deyil. "Anar Məmmədinin səhəti günü-gündən pisləşir ...

Meşdan TV

Anar Məmmədinin səhətinin pisləşdiyini bildirir

— "Anar Məmmədinin səhəti günü-gündən pisləşir. Onun müayinə olunması, analizləri götürülməsi, vəziyyətinin hərtərəfli yoxlanılması və müalicəsi ilə bağlı ...

Facebook

Azadlıq Qəzeti - Anar Məmmədinin səhəti günü-gündən...

— Anar Məmmədinin səhəti günü-gündən pisləşir. Onun müayinə olunması, analizləri alınması, yoxlanılması və müalicəsi ilə bağlı ehtiyatlı müjərilərin ...

AzadlıqRədiosu

Anar Məmmədinin səhətinə problemlər yarandığını bildirir

— Seçkilərin Monitorinqi və Demokratiyanın Tədrisi Mərkəzinin (SMDT) həbsdə olan rəhbəri Anar Məmmədinin səhətinə problemlər yarandığını bildirir.

Populyar hekayələr

Xural

Anar Məmmədinin səhətinə problemlər yarandığını bildirir

EPDE - European Platform for Democratic Elector...

Anar Mammadli's health continues to deteriorate due to lack of access to medical care. bit.ly/44t5Bv5

Anar Mammadli, a Vice-Chair of Human Rights Prize laureate, leader of a prominent election monitor @SMDT_EMDS and our colleague, remains imprisoned on fabricated charges.

AzadlıqRədiosu

19:07, 16 Oktyabr 2024, Çarşamba

Seçkilərin Monitorinqi və Demokratiyanın Tədrisi Mərkəzinin həbsdə olan rəhbəri Anar Məmmədinin səhətinə problemlər yarandığını bildirir. Bu barədə onun vəkilinə əyləmə yazılıb.

Vəkilin Səadətovunun verdiyi məlumatlara görə, Oktyabrın 14-ü 1 saylı Bakı İstintaq Təcridxanasında A.Məmmədini ilə görüşüb.

E.Sadıqov deyir edib ki, Anar Məmmədinin müayinəsi və zəruri analizlərinin götürülməsi ilə bağlı hələ olan həftədən gündüzlü müjəratlara heç bir cavab verilməyib: "Anar Məmmədinin y... əlavə məlumat üçün bax.

MEYDAN TV

Anar Məmmədinin səhətinin pisləşdiyini bildirir

17 Oktyabr 2024

Vəkilin məlumatı üçün edilən istintaqların nəticələri gözlənilməyəcək deyir

Xəbərlər

17 Oktyabr 2024

The Washington Post "COP-29-a gələ

Türkiyə İnformasiya Agentliyi - İSİ

16 Oktyabr 2024, Çarşamba

Seçkilərin Monitorinqi və Demokratiyanın Tədrisi Mərkəzinin direktoru, hazırda həbsdə olan Anar Məmmədinin səhəti günü-gündən pisləşir. Bu barədə vəkil Əli Sadətov bildirdi. Onun sözlərinə görə, Oktyabrın 14-ü 1 saylı Bakı İstintaq Təcridxanasında hüquq müdafiəçisi Anar Məmmədli ilə görüşüb. Vəkil deyir ki, Anar Məmmədinin belində boğazında ağrılar var. Eyni zamanda baş...

AzadlıqRədiosu @AzadliqRadio

Seçkilərin Monitorinqi və Demokratiyanın Tədrisi Mərkəzinin (SMDT) həbsdə olan rəhbəri Anar Məmmədinin səhətinə problemlər yarandığını bildirir. Bu barədə müdafiə tərəfi əyləmə yazılıb.

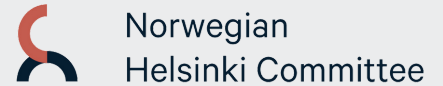
CURE Campaign @CURE_coe

The @FreeAnar campaign "calls on the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in particular the Medical Department of the Ministry of Justice of Azerbaijan, to fulfill Anar Mammadli's right to adequate medical examination and care whilst in detention." "We fear that if Anar Mammadli's health concerns remain unaddressed while in detention, they may have irreparable effects on his physical and mental health." The CURE campaign reiterates its call on the @CoE and its leadership to prioritize attention for this issue.

@Andrius_Krivas
@alain_berset
@MichaelCJT
@PACE_President
free-anar-site/anar-mammadli...

8:20 AM · Oct 17, 2024 · 93 Views

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FREEDOM NOW



European Exchange



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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	USD	USD
	2023 FY	2022 FY
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	27,698,327	37,221,783
Contributions receivable, net	30,078,862	22,837,169
Prepaid expenses and other assets	3,795,202	4,724,821
Investments	169,886,086	167,472,898
Operating lease right-of-use assets, net	17,973,348	-
Finance lease right-of-use assets, net	-	294,486
Property and equipment, net	4,573,757	6,461,026
Total Assets	254,304,268	238,717,697
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	9,753,000	8,109,135
Deferred rent	-	3,158,345
Operating lease liabilities	20,722,142	-
Finance lease liabilities	798,853	-
Total Liabilities	30,773,995	11,267,480
Commitments and contingencies		
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions	9,939,801	23,760,474
With donor restrictions	213,590,472	202,689,243
Total Net Assets	223,530,273	227,450,217
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	254,304,268	238,717,697

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Public Support		
Contributions and grants	84,259,076	79,427,408
Contributed services and properties revenue	2,551,491	1,114,207
Special events	16,276,499	11,862,090
Less: direct cost of special events	(2,901,827)	(1,930,730)
Total Public Support	100,185,239	90,472,975
Revenue		
Net investment income (loss)	10,629,400	(7,460,659)
Publications	4,157	9,557
Change in value of beneficial interest in split-interest agreements	56,081	25,080
Other	202,558	120,376
Total Revenue	10,892,196	(7,305,646)
Total Public Support and Revenue	111,077,435	83,167,329

EXPENSES

Program Services		
Africa	9,335,184	7,452,748
Americas	4,768,607	3,695,560
Asia	11,010,989	9,858,667
Europe and Central Asia	7,749,453	6,938,375
Middle East and North Africa	8,370,773	6,632,390
United States	3,878,739	3,738,641
Children's Rights	4,945,784	4,451,528
Women's Rights	4,421,597	3,924,955
Disability Rights	3,939,196	3,042,688
LGBT Rights	2,610,790	2,602,772
Other programs	19,535,935	15,147,522
Total Program Services	80,567,047	67,485,846
Supporting Services		
Management and general	13,975,549	14,097,337
Fundraising	21,451,645	18,211,177
Total Supporting Services	35,427,194	32,308,514
Total Expenses	115,994,241	99,794,360

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7. Grant monitoring statements

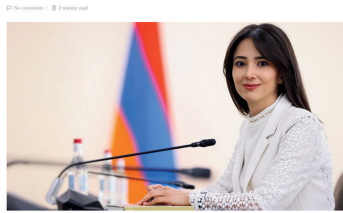
7.1. Revenues

Funder	Grants to be used (1)	Amount of grant used in 2021	Grant remaining to be used at 31/12/21 (2)
Agence Française de Développement	2 835 798	1 573 850	1 261 948
Embassy of Switzerland	3 393	3 393	3 393
Bread for the World	506 093	109 328	396 765
Carrefour	30 000	30 000	30 000
European Commission	4 324 377	1 946 682	2 377 694
DEVCO	44 833	23 000	21 833
FIDHD	36 000	18 000	18 000
Fondation de France	154 996	37 496	117 500
Fondation Nicolas Puech	80 000	40 000	40 000
Freedom Fund	32 914	32 914	32 914
Freedom House	8 829	5 631	3 198
FRIQ	33 000	726	32 274
Front Line	7 500	835	6 665
Irish Aid	831 682	181 314	650 367
Ministry of Foreign Affairs - France	160 000	159 340	660
Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Netherlands	601 574	321 017	280 557
City of Paris	30 000	30 000	30 000
Anonymous foundation 1	381 182	245 634	135 548
New Venture Fund - Sage	74 206	39 180	35 027
OAK Foundation	386 126	257 245	128 881
CIJUA	32 933	26 869	6 064
Francophonie	32 000	22 862	9 138
Open Society Foundations	478 863	194 273	284 590
Oxfam	5 450	5 450	5 450
Anonymous Foundation 2	197 990	80 351	117 639
Pan American Development Fund - Nicaragua	166 487	82 379	84 108
Swedish International Development Agency	4 805 055	1 456 735	3 348 320
Total	16 281 281	6 921 112	9 360 168

(1) Remaining grants to be used at the end of 2020 plus contracts signed in 2021
(2) Deductions made from unused funds to be repaid

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Azerbaijan to Use COP-29 as a Smokescreen to Legitimize Future Escalation, Says Armenian MFA



Representative of the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ani Badalyan

YEREVAN - Azerbaijan will use COP-29 as a smokescreen in an attempt to legitimize future escalations, according to Ani Badalyan, spokesperson for the Armenian Foreign Ministry. This comment was made in response to allegations...

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia



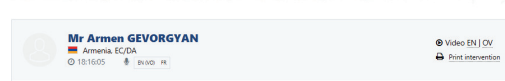
The reaction to the Armenia-France military-technical cooperation by official Baku causes confusion. It is the sovereign right of every state to maintain combat-capable armed forces equipped with modern military assets. The Republic of Armenia recognizes the territorial integrity and inviolability of the borders of all its neighbors. Armenia and Azerbaijan on the highest level agreed that they mutually recognize the territorial integrity and sovereignty of each other based on the 1991 Alma-Ata Declaration. The Republic of Armenia is loyal to this principle and does not have any ambitions beyond its internationally recognized 29 thousand 743 square kilometers. The Republic of Armenia has practically proven this approach by the initiative of conducting demilitarization in four villages of the Gazakh Region of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Tavush region of the Republic of Armenia. We call on Azerbaijan to cease the occupation of vital territories of more than 30 villages of the Republic of Armenia. Azerbaijan's practice of predicting regional escalations at every opportunity is alarming and comes to prove the analyses made by a number of centers that Azerbaijan will do everything to disrupt the process of concluding a peace agreement with Armenia in order to launch a new aggression against the Republic of Armenia after the COP29 summit in Baku in November 2024. We draw the attention of the international community to this, as well as to the fact that official Yerevan's proposal to conclude a peace agreement within 1 month remained without response by official Baku.

Open letter to European politicians attending COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan

November 12, 2024

Open letter from Anders Fogh Rasmussen and members of the Friends of Armenia Network ahead of COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan

To Those Attending COP29 in Baku, The irony of the world's most important climate conference being held in Baku will certainly not be lost on you. Fossil fuels represent 90 per cent of all Azeri exports. But this year's COP must not be a repeat of 2023's greenwashing exercise in Dubai. Last year, Azerbaijan's autocratic regime launched a military offensive against the ethnic-Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, leading to the cleansing of approximately 120,000 ethnic Armenians. Following a 2022 incursion into Armenia, Azerbaijan occupies more than 200 sq. kilometers of territory of the Republic of Armenia.



Mister President, I believe that our organisation is unique in terms of positioning itself as a bastion of democracy, human rights, and rule of law on one hand, and continuously making compromises with members who are consistently ignoring these fundamental values. I would like to bring attention of my colleagues from United Kingdom and Serbia to the fact that the case of Azerbaijan in the Council of Europe is a vivid example of a member that not only failed to become more democratic and open since membership, but even succeeded in turning into a more authoritarian regime and in fact a family monarchy. The strategic restraint of the democratic world towards Azerbaijan and pseudo-democratic efforts of establishing proactive relations, allowed Azerbaijan to turn our region in a zone of instability, conflicts, and big human tragedies. The leadership in Baku is bullying other states, including those in our region, to build relations by manipulating its hydrocarbon reserves, taking force, and ethno-religious closeness with Turkey. None of this has anything to do with anything the organisation stands for. Colleagues, a few months ago Baku hosted a so called Congress of Independence Movements from French-colonised Territories. Now let's be clear, finally, isn't this a direct challenge to the democratic security in Europe? Azerbaijan is not only now a provider of natural gas, but also encouraging separatism and armed resistance. The Azerbaijani regime is hosting the COP29 UN Climate Change Conference in Baku to only legitimise the two recent non-democratic elections, as well as the horrific ethnic cleansing of the entire Armenian population from Nagorno-Karabakh, where these people have been living for millennia. Azerbaijan is a major oil and gas producer in the Caspian, by which it makes significant damage to the Caspian seabed. The oil and gas export funds are spent to only cement the dictatorship as well as arms build up to threaten others and fight wars. Only a few weeks remaining to the COP29 and hundreds of political prisoners are still in Baku, including dozens of Armenians, prisoners of war, as well as the leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh. Mister President, Azerbaijan is a risk factor for many international organisations and initiatives. It is discrediting any democratic human rights and rule of law initiatives it has become part of. I believe the time has come for us to seriously re-evaluate the role of Azerbaijan in this organisation. Let me conclude by calling upon all parliamentarians in the Assembly to make best efforts with their governments and urge Azerbaijan to release all political prisoners and Armenian hostages ahead of COP29. Thank you.

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ANCA @ANCA_DC · Oct 31
Replying to @NaynaSherno
#EndTheGagRule against official U.S. condemnation of Azerbaijan's:

- Climate destruction
- Domestic repression
- Genocidal aggression
- Holy site desecration
- Christian persecution
- Caspian pollution

#COP29

ANCA @ANCA_DC · Oct 31
SHAME: In the days leading up to the #COP29 climate summit in Baku, @SecBlinken and our @StateDept remain shamefully silent on Azerbaijan's:

- Genocidal aggression...

ANCA @ANCA_DC · Oct 31
Replying to @UtkarSvs
#EndTheGagRule against official U.S. condemnation of Azerbaijan's:

- Climate destruction
- Domestic repression
- Genocidal aggression
- Holy site desecration
- Christian persecution
- Caspian pollution

#COP29

ANCA @ANCA_DC · Oct 31
SHAME: In the days leading up to the #COP29 climate summit in Baku, @SecBlinken and our @StateDept remain shamefully silent on Azerbaijan's:

- Genocidal aggression...

ANCA @ANCA_DC · Oct 31
Replying to @AzerbaijanLovers and @COP29_AZ
#EndTheGagRule against official U.S. condemnation of Azerbaijan's:

- Climate destruction
- Domestic repression
- Genocidal aggression
- Holy site desecration
- Christian persecution
- Caspian pollution

#COP29

ANCA @ANCA_DC · Oct 31
SHAME: In the days leading up to the #COP29 climate summit in Baku, @SecBlinken and our @StateDept remain shamefully silent on Azerbaijan's:

- Genocidal aggression...

ANCA @ANCA_DC · Oct 31
Replying to @AveArmenia @antiCorruption and 2 others
#EndTheGagRule against official U.S. condemnation of Azerbaijan's:

- Climate destruction
- Domestic repression
- Genocidal aggression
- Holy site desecration
- Christian persecution
- Caspian pollution

#COP29

ANCA @ANCA_DC · Oct 31
SHAME: In the days leading up to the #COP29 climate summit in Baku, @SecBlinken and our @StateDept remain shamefully silent on Azerbaijan's:

- Genocidal aggression...

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ANCA @ANCA_DC

Baku's #COP29 PR battle has been fought and lost - with the vast majority of social media traffic calling out petro-state Azerbaijan for its climate destruction, genocidal violence, and domestic repression.

6:33 PM · Oct 7, 2024 · 1,026 Views

ANCA @ANCA_DC · Oct 31
SHAME: In the days leading up to the #COP29 climate summit in Baku, @SecBlinken and our @StateDept remain shamefully silent on Azerbaijan's:

- Genocidal aggression...

ANCA @ANCA_DC · Oct 31
SHAME: In the days leading up to the #COP29 climate summit in Baku, @SecBlinken and our @StateDept remain shamefully silent on Azerbaijan's:

- Genocidal aggression...

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📷 Mary Robison, a former UN climate envoy, welcomed the plan to focus on peace at the Cop29 environmental summit in Azerbaijan. Photograph: Rafiq Maqbool/AP

Mary Robison, a former president of Ireland and UN high commissioner for human rights, who has also twice served as a UN climate envoy, is now chair of the Elders group of former world political and business leaders. She said she welcomed the intention to focus on peace, noting there were precedents in the work of environmental activists who linked their work with healing conflicts.


But she voiced concern over Azerbaijan's stance. She said: "I think the idea is a good idea. If we could make more of climate and security and peace, that would be a good step."

But she added: "I'm not sure the **peace with Armenia** is a perfect peace, to say the least. There are very big issues. There are political prisoners, I am part of a campaign to try to get them released. We should hold [Azerbaijan] to account for their own human rights record."



The Sentry 
@TheSentry_Org



 **#AliyevEmpire** provides an unprecedented look at the Aliyev family's sprawling business empire.

The project launched on our new **#Atlas** platform and combines open-source data + reporting with original investigations by The Sentry.

atlas.thesentry.org/azerbaijan-ali...

Azerbaijan is Using COP29 to Clean Up Its Image



Paul Polman 

Business, campaigning, younger me nearly a priest. 'Net Positive: how courageous companies thrive by giving more...



November 6, 2024

Azerbaijan's bid to market COP29 as the "COP of Peace" is just the latest in a series of image-laundering efforts by authoritarian regimes. When it comes to high-profile international events, we've witnessed everything from 'whitewashing' and 'greenwashing' to 'sportswashing'. Now, observers are accusing Azerbaijan of a new form of spin—"peacewashing". But Baku's relentless campaign to sanitize its international image is beginning to wear thin.

Ruben Vardanyan and Other Armenian Leaders Mark One Year as Political Prisoners in Azerbaijan

PRESS RELEASE

Ruben Vardanyan and Other Armenian Leaders Mark One Year as Political Prisoners in Azerbaijan

The Armenian leaders remain in illegal detention despite mounting international pressure for their release before Azerbaijan hosts COP29 in November

Yerevan, Armenia, September 27, 2024 – Today marks the first anniversary of the arbitrary arrest by Azerbaijani authorities of eight Armenian leaders, commencing with the arrest of social entrepreneur and philanthropist, Ruben Vardanyan.

The eight Armenian leaders were illegally arrested in September and October 2023 after Azerbaijan launched a military offensive in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, causing the population of 120,000 ethnic Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh to become refugees and flee their homes.

“My father’s arbitrary detention without any evidence or due process is a clear violation of all international norms and laws” says David Vardanyan, son of Ruben Vardanyan. “We call on the international community to intensify efforts to secure his immediate and unconditional release alongside the other political leaders illegally detained in Azerbaijan.”

Despite appeals from business and community leaders as well as members of the European Parliament, the French Parliament, UK House of Commons and House of Lords, and U.S. Congress for their release, Ruben Vardanyan remains in pre-trial detention without even a trial date or formal charges brought against him.

“A year of detention without trial or concrete evidence demonstrates the political nature of this case,” says Jared Genser, international legal counsel for the Vardanyan family. “Azerbaijan must respect its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and immediately release Ruben Vardanyan.”

Vardanyan briefly served as Nagorno-Karabakh’s Minister of State and is a long-standing vocal critic of the government of Azerbaijan for its mistreatment of ethnic Armenians and violations of international law.

Azerbaijan’s worsening human rights record is drawing significant scrutiny as the country gears up to host COP29, the UN’s annual gathering of world leaders focused on combating climate change. Ahead of the conference in November, Azerbaijan has called for a “global truce” and pause to all ongoing conflicts, which has been widely criticized and many have accused Azerbaijan of hypocrisy, given the government’s increased crackdown on civil society, increased arrests of political prisoners and the military offensive against the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Many human rights organizations, including Freedom House, assert that the country’s actions in Nagorno-Karabakh constituted ethnic cleansing, with ethnic Armenians “intentionally subjected to regular attacks, intimidation, deprivation of basic rights and adequate living conditions, and forced displacement by the Azerbaijani state.” Others, including former prosecutor at the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno Ocampo, attest that Azerbaijan’s actions match the international crime of genocide.

“We need to give some signals to the government that we expect immediate actions on restrictions, on access to [COP29], on freedom of the press, and on the releasing of these political prisoners,” said Paul Polman, former Vice-Chair of the UN Global Compact and CEO of Unilever.

Polman joined more than 30 other leaders for a roundtable on the importance of human rights in climate action on September 25 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly and New York Climate Week. The discussion featured experts from Freedom House, Transparency International, Reporters Without Borders, and others.

Azerbaijan has consistently dropped in the Freedom of the World report produced by Freedom House since 2017, and currently scores 7 out of 100 points. Transparency International ranks Azerbaijan 154th out of 180 countries in its Corruption Perceptions Index due to widespread corruption, crackdowns on rival politicians, and the limiting of civic space.

###

For further information, please contact:

rv@havas.com or freearmenianprisoners@edelman.com

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Azerbaijan: Human Rights in the Spotlight during COP29 Pre-Talks in Bonn

Jun 3, 2024

Freedom Now and international human rights organizations highlight human rights abuses occurring in Azerbaijan ahead of the planned COP 29 conference.

[Read More](#)



Freedom Now News



EU: Raise Human Rights Crisis in Azerbaijan during COP29
Nov 6, 2024
Freedom Now in conjunction with 16 other international human rights organizations, urges EU leaders to discuss the ongoing human rights crisis in Azerbaijan during COP29

Protecting Human Rights

Freedom Now protects individuals and communities from government repression and defends human rights through direct legal support, targeted high-leverage advocacy, and capacity-building analysis and assistance.



Azerbaijan: Vicious Assault on Government Critics

Oct 8, 2024

Human Rights Watch and Freedom Now have released a new report documenting the Azerbaijani government's concerted efforts to decimate civil society and silence its critics just months before it is set to host COP29.

[Read More](#)



EU: Raise Human Rights Crisis in Azerbaijan during COP29

Nov 6, 2024

Freedom Now in conjunction with 16 other international human rights organizations, urges EU leaders to discuss the ongoing human rights crisis in Azerbaijan during COP29

[Read More](#)



Azerbaijan: New Crackdown Threatens Civil Society

Jan 24, 2024

Beginning in December 2022, Azerbaijan initiated a crackdown on civil society that has resulted in the arrest of dozens of individuals under specious and politically-motivated charges. **Freedom Now** investigates the causes of the crackdown and profiles those currently detained.

[Read More](#)



Azerbaijan: Freedom Now's Executive Director Andrea J. Prasow Testifies at Tom Lantos Hearing on Human Rights in Azerbaijan

Sep 19, 2024

On September 19, 2024, Freedom Now's Executive Director Andrea J. Prasow testified before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission on Azerbaijan's widening crackdown on civil society.

[Read More](#)



Azerbaijan: Civil Society Demands Attention to Human Rights and Climate Justice Ahead of COP29

Sep 11, 2024

Freedom Now and other civil society organizations stress the need to highlight serious human rights concerns in Azerbaijan prior to the United Nations Climate Conference (COP29) this year.

[Read More](#)



Azerbaijan: End Crackdown on Independent Activism and Release Political Prisoners

Jul 23, 2024

Today, **Freedom Now** and a number of partner NGOs called on Azerbaijan to end its crackdown on independent activism, and release all individuals held on politically-motivated charges. The call coincides with the one-year anniversary of the arrest of Dr. Gubad Ibadoghlu.

[Read More](#)



Azerbaijan: Crackdown on Free Expression Escalates

Mar 15, 2024

International organizations denounce latest wave of arrests in Azerbaijan.

[Read More](#)



Azerbaijan: Human Rights Violations Must Be Addressed By Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)

Sep 25, 2024

Freedom Now and other NGOs urge PACE to take decisive action in response to the ongoing repression in Azerbaijan.

[Read More](#)

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Luis Moreno Ocampo @MorenoOcampo1 · Nov 11
"A senior official at #COP29 climate change conference in Azerbaijan appears to have used his role to arrange a meeting to discuss potential fossil fuel deals, the BBC can report." Reports by @BBCWorld. Discovery by @Global_Witness #FreeArmenianHostages



From bbc.com

3 48 96 1.5K

Luis Moreno Ocampo @MorenoOcampo1 · Nov 7
"Leaders from key countries to skip #COP29 climate summit" #StopGreenwashGenocide #FreeArmenianHostages #FreePoliticalPrisoners



From reuters.com

Luis Moreno Ocampo @MorenoOcampo1 · Nov 6
"How Oil Funds Baku Climate COP and the Aliyev Regime" A thick scent of scandal hangs over the Azerbaijani national company Socar, which is trying to clear its reputation thanks to the UN conference via @LePoint #COP29 #FreeArmenianHostages



Comment le pétrole finance la COP sur le climat de Bakou et le régime Aliyev

Luis Moreno Ocampo @MorenoOcampo1 · Oct 30
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The World Council of Churches (WCC) is inviting all people of good will to join a prayer day for Armenian hostages on 10 November, the day before the opening of the #COP29 climate talks in #Azerbaijan. #FreeArmenianHostages olkoumene.org/news/armenian-...

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"European Parliament delegation to #COP29 to receive 'burner' phones as security measure" via @euronews euronews.com/my-europe/2024... #COP29 #StopGreenwashGenocide #FreeArmenianHostages #FreePoliticalPrisoners

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Greta Thunberg @GretaThunberg · Nov 5
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"The high-profile nature of the event will allow Azerbaijan to achieve one of its primary goals: to clean up its image in the eyes of the world and distract from its structural issues regarding human rights and democracy." #COP29 #StopGreenwashGenocide #FreeArmenianHostages

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Azerbaijan chosen to host Cop29 after fraught negotiations

Climate activists likely to be concerned by another fossil fuel-reliant country taking over summit presidency



Activists protesting against fossil fuels outside the Cop28 venue in Dubai on Saturday. Photograph: Peter Dejong/AP

Controversy as COP29 to be held in Azerbaijan



13 December 2023

By Anna Edgar and Ismi Aghayev



Azerbaijan's largest oil platform on the Caspian Sea, the Azeri-Chirag-Gunashli oil field in Azerbaijan. Image via president.az.

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Oil-reliant Azerbaijan chosen to host Cop29 climate talks

Published on 09/12/2023, 10:52am

Azerbaijan gets two-thirds of its revenue from oil and gas, one of the highest percentages of any country in the world



Azerbaijan's capital Baku (Photo: Flickr/Dan Mason)

Cop29

How 'world's first oil town' is wrestling with fossil fuel legacy



Fiona Harvey Environment editor

Mon 28 Jul 2024 14:00 CEST

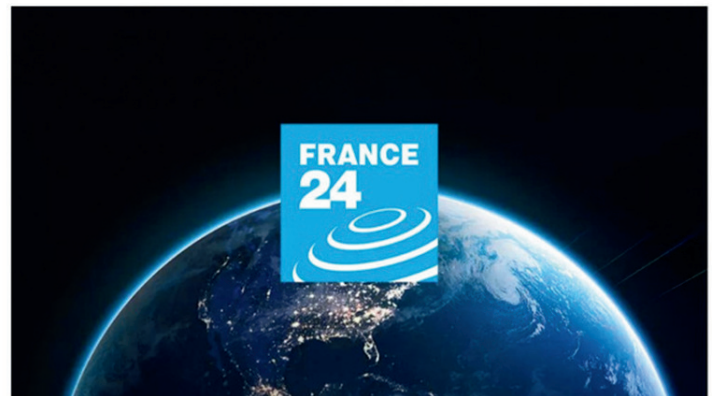
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'Vanity project': a climate summit in oil-rich Azerbaijan

Baku (AFP) - The decision to hold a climate summit in oil-and-gas-producer Azerbaijan, which will be hosting the COP29 UN Climate Change Conference this year, has puzzled many environmental groups.

Issued on: 05/02/2024 - 08:11 Modified: 05/02/2024 - 14:23 3 min



Climate

Fossil fuel-rich Azerbaijan prepares to host crucial Cop29 climate talks

Can Baku, one of the birthplaces of oil, confound doubters and deliver an ambitious climate outcome for the world?




Le Monde Environment COP28 Carbon bombs Adaptation The Earth's Pulses PFAS

Azerbaijan names ex-oil executive to COP29 presidency

Mukhtar Babayev, Azerbaijan's minister for ecology and natural resources and formerly a state oil company SOCAR executive, has been named president-delegate of the future COP29 – the second petrochemical executive in a row to hold the position.

Le Monde with AFP
Published on January 5, 2024, at 3:45 pm (Paris), updated on January 5, 2024, at 3:50 pm - 2 min read



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Azerbaijan appoint state oil company veteran as Cop29 president

Published on 04/01/2024, 5:19pm

Mukhtar Babayev spent 26 years at Azerbaijan's state-owned oil and gas company Socar, where he tried to limit the company's environmental damage.




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Climate change: Former oil executive Mukhtar Babayev to lead COP29 talks in Azerbaijan

5 January 2024 Share Save

Matt McGrath
Environment correspondent



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Oil industry veteran to lead next round of Cop climate change summit

Mukhtar Babayev is named president-in-waiting of UN climate summit to be held in November



Sceptics have already raised questions over the appointment of Mukhtar Babayev to the role. Photograph: Thomas Mukoya/Reuters

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'Pushes us closer to the abyss': Former Azerbaijani oil executive to head COP29

Azerbaijan's ecology minister and former oil executive Mukhtar Babayev was on Friday appointed to lead the United Nations' annual climate talks in a move that has sparked concern among NGOs and environmentalists who voiced similar worries over last year's COP28 chair Sultan Al Jaber, chief of the United Arab Emirates' national oil company.

Issued on: 07/01/2024 - 17:54 Modified: 07/01/2024 - 17:57 4 min



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The Guardian

This article is more than 8 months old

Azerbaijan appoints no women to 28-member Cop29 climate committee

Campaigners condemn decision as regressive, saying 'climate change affects whole world, not half of it'



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"Azerbaijan Appoints No Women To 28-Member Cop29 Climate Committee"

"Campaigners condemn decision as regressive, saying 'climate change affects whole world, not half of it'"

"The organising committee for the Cop29 global climate change summit in Azerbaijan in December comprises 28 men and no women, the president of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, has announced."

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The organizing committee for COP29 in Azerbaijan has announced that it does not include any women

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No women in 28-member team: COP29 organising committee faces backlash for gender imbalance

Baku, Azerbaijan • Edited By: Sneha Swaminathan • Updated: Jan 15, 2024, 11:42 PM IST



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COP29 Host Country Agreement Lacks Rights Protections

Azerbaijan Should Guarantee Rights of Civil Society Participants At Climate Conference

Myrto Tiliadaki
Senior Advocate, Environment and Human Rights



COP29 banners in Baku, Azerbaijan, September 17, 2024. © 2024 Jakub Porzycki/NatPhoto via AP Photo

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EU must confront Azerbaijan at COP29 over human rights crackdown, top NGOs demand

The fossil fuel-rich climate summit host has said criticism of its domestic record is merely foreign 'provocations.'

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WHO WE ARE WHAT WE DO

Global: Host Country Agreement with Azerbaijan for COP29 must guarantee human rights and be publicly available

The UN organizers of the COP29 climate summit in November must ensure the Host Country Agreement (HCA) with the Azerbaijan authorities contains human rights safeguards and that it is made publicly accessible immediately after it is signed so potential attendees can assess the risks they face at the event, Amnesty International said today.

Despite repeated attempts, Amnesty International only recently obtained the Host Country Agreement (HCA) for last year's COP between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Arab Emirates. This HCA had significant shortcomings and ambiguities in the rights protections it afforded to participants in Dubai, heightening concerns that an agreement with the Azerbaijan government will similarly fall short of fully protecting human rights and civic space at COP29 and will also not be publicly available ahead of the summit.

Ann Harrison, Amnesty International's Climate Policy Advisor, said:

The Rights and Wrongs Leading to Azerbaijan's Hosting of COP29

Geneva Solutions • July 9, 2024

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CLIMATE

Azerbaijan's human-rights record is under fire as it prepares to host UN climate talks

OCTOBER 8, 2024 - 5:20 PM ET

By Michael Copley



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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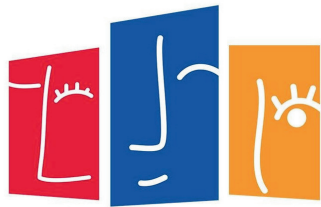
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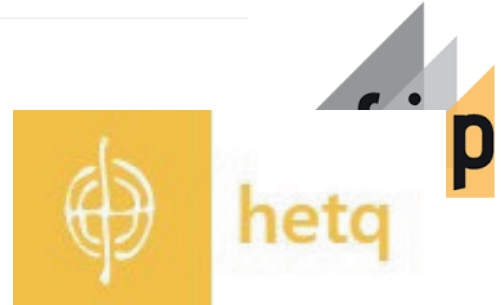
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