

# AZERBAIJAN

# **Key Findings**

Despite societal religious tolerance in Azerbaijan, government actions over the past several years have led to a deterioration in religious freedom, especially after penalties were increased in 2010 and 2011 for violating the restrictive 2009 religion law. Registration requests from religious organizations have been delayed or denied, religious groups closed, and in the past year non-violent religious activists have been detained, fined, and imprisoned. Based on these concerns, USCIRF again places Azerbaijan on Tier 2 in 2014. Azerbaijan was on Tier 2 for the first time in 2013.

## Background

Azerbaijan's 2009 religion law is used to limit religious freedoms and to justify fines, police raids, detentions, and imprisonment. The law's provisions include: compulsory state registration with complex and intrusive requirements; no appeal for registration denials; religious activities limited to a community's registered address; extensive state controls on the content, production, import, export and dissemination of religious materials; and state-approved religious education to preach, teach religion or lead ceremonies. In October 2012, the Council of Europe's (CoE) Venice Commission and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) issued a legal opinion that Azerbaijan's

State-approved religious education is required to preach, teach religion, or lead ceremonies.

religion law failed to meet its international human rights commitments. In May 2014, Azerbaijan will become the chair of the CoE Council of Ministers for six months. Individuals or groups violating the religion law are subject to administrative fines. Possible violations include: failing to register; holding religious meetings or ceremonies without state approval; conducting religious activity outside a group's registered address; and activity not in accord with the state-approved statute. In 2010, fines were increased 16-fold from 2009. Violations of provisions on religious education are subject to criminal penalties. Those who are found to have forced children to take part in religious activity or religious education are liable to fines or jail terms of up to two years.

In 2013, the Azeri parliament adopted new restrictive amendments to religion, NGOs, and other laws, purportedly to prevent the spread of religious extremism and of foreign missionary activity.

# **Religious Freedom Conditions 2013–2014** Government Control through Registration

The registration process is mandatory and groups denied registration or refusing to register are considered "illegal." Permissible activity of any registered religious organization can only occur at its legal address. Certain religious freedom NGOs, such as the International Religious Liberty Association and *Devamm*, were denied registration. In February 2012, the Azeri Supreme Court ordered the registration of the Baku-based Cathedral of Praise Pentecostal Church, but that same month the Jehovah's Witnesses lost their Supreme Court case over registration.

#### Penalties for Religious Activity

Members of unregistered religious communities face raids, confiscation of religious texts and other penalties. The Azeri NGO Legal Protection and Awareness Society Public Union has compiled a list of 51 Muslims jailed for the non-violent practice of their faith (see appendix). Most were sentenced since 2012, many for taking part in public protests of what in effect is a ban on headscarves in schools. Islamic theologian Taleh Bagirov, who publicly criticized state efforts to impose an imam from the Caucasus Muslim Board on his mosque, was sentenced to a two-year prison term in November 2013 on fabricated drug charges. In August 2013, Bagirov's driver, Anar Melikov, received a 19-month prison term, also on drug charges. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) rapporteur presented a report to PACE in January 2013 that Azerbaijan had imprisoned 23 on religion-related political charges; PACE failed to pass a resolution on political prisoners in Azerbaijan.

#### **Additional Restrictions on Muslims**

Muslims in Azerbaijan (most of whom are Shi'a) are subject to additional restrictions. All Muslim religious leaders are named by the state-backed Caucasus Muslim Board and must be citizens educated in Azerbaijan; all mosques must belong to the Caucasus Muslim Board; and only Azeri citizens can establish Islamic religious communities. During 2013, all Islamic communities that did not belong to the Muslim Board still lacked legal status. Police continue to enforce a 2008 government order that

# The Islamic headscarf is not permitted in schools or universities.

does not allow prayer outside of mosques. The Ministry of Education introduced a school uniform in 2010, in effect banning the Islamic headscarf. In 2013 that ban was extended to universities, leading to many petition drives and protests, for which people were arrested. In December 2013, local officials destroyed a village mosque being built in Peshtatuk because it lacked a national permit. Two Muslims were fined in late 2013 up to one year's salary for informally praying in a cemetery and for lacking official permission.

#### **Restrictions on Religious Minorities**

Almost all Protestant denominations are without legal status (including Baptists, Seventh-day Adventists and Pentecostals), as well as Jehovah's Witnesses. In May 2013 a court overturned fines against two Baptists who took part in unregistered religious activities. Two Georgian Orthodox communities are registered, but Gakh region authorities have restricted worship to 30 minutes in three Georgian Orthodox churches and many are deprived of sacraments. Baku's historic Armenian Apostolic Saint Gregory the Illuminator's Church was renovated and now serves as the archive department of the Department of Administration Affairs of the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan.

#### **Status of Conscientious Objection**

When Azerbaijan joined the CoE in 2001 it promised to allow alternative service, but has yet to enact a law on conscientious objection. While the Constitution allows for alternative service, other laws set 2-year prison terms for those who refuse military service. In June 2013, the country's two known conscientious objectors, both Jehovah's Witnesses, were released as part of a prisoner amnesty.

#### **Government Censorship of Religious Materials**

State permission is required to produce, import, export, or distribute religious material. Religious material cannot be sold outside officially-approved sites and foreigners cannot preach. Penalties for first-time offenders include up to two years' imprisonment, while a "conspiratorial" or organized group or a repeat offender faces a prison term of between two and five years. Legal bans on undefined "religious propaganda" by foreigners and stateless persons have led to deportations of some Muslims, Protestants and Jehovah's Witnesses, including former Soviet citizens and long-term residents. In May 2013, the State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations announced it would make public a list of banned materials, but it has not yet done so. The government has raided homes and confiscated religious materials, including Qur'ans, works of the Turkish Muslim theologian Said Nursi, and Baptist literature. It also has confiscated religious texts at the country's borders. Reportedly, the Georgian Orthodox Church, the Catholic Church, and some Muslim groups can more easily obtain or publish literature.

#### **Closure and Confiscation of Places of Worship**

Since 2009, Azerbaijan has closed or destroyed numerous houses of worship, including such mosques as the "Albanian" Mosque in Gyanja, the Martyrs' Mosque in Baku and the Juma Mosque in Nakhichevan. Baptists in Baku are seeking return of their historic places of worship. In late 2012, Baku's Baha'is lost their last historic building to urban renewal. The Georgian Orthodox Church is attempting to reopen four churches in the Gakh Region and establish a monastery.

#### Situation in the Nakhichevan Exclave

Residents of the Nakhichevan exclave encounter more severe religious freedom restrictions than in Azerbaijan's other regions; local Sunni Muslims had nowhere to pray. Baha'is, Adventists and Hare Krishnas were banned.

#### **Recommendations for U.S. Policy**

For the past decade, U.S. policy in Azerbaijan was dominated by the Afghan war, and human rights and religious freedom were not major concerns. USCIRF believes that this policy was shortsighted. The evolving regional geopolitical situation may or may not create new security imperatives for the United States, but USCIRF recommends that the U.S. government prioritize religious freedom and related human rights in Azerbaijan by:

- Pressing the Azeri government to allow religious groups to operate freely without registration and to amend the religion law registration process to ease its requirements and make it voluntary;
- Encouraging public scrutiny of Azerbaijan's religious freedom record in international fora, such as the UN, the Council of Europe (CoE) and the OSCE, and highlight cases of prosecution of Azeri citizens that violate international norms in comments at such fora;
- Urging the Azeri government to agree to visits by UN Special Rapporteurs on Freedom of Religion or Belief, the Independence of the Judiciary, and Torture, set specific visit dates, and provide the full and necessary conditions for such visits;
- Ensuring that the U.S. Embassy in Azerbaijan maintains active contacts with Azeri human rights activists and press the Azeri government to ensure that every prisoner has greater access to his or her family, human rights monitors, adequate medical care, and a lawyer;

- Specifying freedom of religion as a grants category and area of activity in U.S. government programming in Azerbaijan; re-establish funding for the State Department's Title VIII program for research, including on religious freedom and human rights, and language programs; and encourage the publicly-funded National Endowment for Democracy to make grants for civil society programs on tolerance and freedom of religion or belief; and
- Encouraging the Broadcasting Board of Governors to increase radio, Internet, and other broadcasting, particularly in the Azeri language, on Azerbaijan's human rights and religious freedom record and freedom of religion or belief as an element of U.S. foreign policy.

# **APPENDIX 4** FIFTY ONE RELIGIOUS PRISONER CASES IN AZERBAIJAN

Compilation by the Azerbaijan Legal Protection and Awareness Society Public Union Contributions by the Azerbaijan Institute for Peace and Democracy (Includes Relevant Articles of Azerbaijan's Criminal Code and Prison Addresses)

#### **Case Description**

Persons detained for the "Freedom for *hijab*" demonstration held on 10/5/2012. On 12/10/2010, the Azeri Education Ministry ordered the wearing of school uniforms, thereby banning the Islamic headscarf. A mass protest, held in May 2011, was violently dispersed; a second protest in October 2012 resulted in mass arrests. There are reports that government provocateurs initiated a confrontation with police that resulted in the use of force and arrests.

	NAME	DATE OF ARREST	ARTICLES OF THE CRIMINAL CODE	PLACE OF DETENTION	STATUS
1.	Ruhid Nariman Abbasov	10/5/2012	233	Prison No. 5	Sentenced to 2-year prison term on 6/4/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court in July 2013.
2.	Xudaverdi Yaser Abdullayev	10/5/2012	233	Prison No. 5	Sentenced to 2-year prison term on 6/4/2013.
3.	Tarlan Faiq Agadadashov	10/5/2012	233; 315.2	Prison No. 16	Sentenced to 5.5-year prison term on 4/22/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court on 12/19/2013.
4.	Bakhtiyar Latif Agayev	10/5/2012	233	Baku Investigative Prison	Sentenced to 1-year 9-month prison term on 5/20/2013.
5.	Rovshan Huseyn Allahverdiyev	10/5/2012	233; 315.2	Prison No. 16	Sentenced to 5.5-year prison term on 4/22/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court on 12/19/2013.
6.	Arif Böyukağa Fataliyev	10/5/2012	233	Prison No. 14	Sentenced to 2-year prison term on 6/3/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court in August, 2013.
7.	Elshan Aliaga Hashimov	10/5/2012	233	Prison No. 16	Sentenced to 2-year prison term on 6/4/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court in July, 2013.
8.	Nasimi Yusif Hasanov	10/6/2012	228.1; 234.1	Prison No. 16	Sentenced to 4-year prison term on 7/27/2013.
9.	Ilham Bahman Hatamov	10/5/2012	233; 315.2	Prison No. 14	Sentenced to 5.5-year prison term on 4/22/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court on 12/19/2013.
10.	David Tarlan Karimov	10/5/2012	233; 315.2	Prison No. 16	Sentenced to 6-year prison term on 4/22/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court on 12/19/2013.
11.	Rauf Nabi Qarayev	10/5/2012	233	Prison No. 16	Sentenced to 1-year 9-month prison term on 6/4/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court in July 2013.

	NAME	DATE OF ARREST	ARTICLES OF THE CRIMINAL CODE	PLACE OF DETENTION	STATUS
12.	Anar Asgar Gasimli	10/5/2012	233; 315.2	Prison No. 14	Sentenced to 5.5-year prison term on 4/22/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court on 12/19/2013
13.	Elchin Adil Gadimov	10/5/2012	233	Baku Investigative Prison	Sentenced to 2-year prison term on 6/4/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court in July 2013.
14.	Nahid Nasib Gahramanov	6/5/2013	233; 315.2	Baku Investigative Prison	Sentenced to 4-year prison term on 10/21/2013.
15.	Mammad Anvar Gambarov	10/5/2012	233	Baku Investigative Prison	Sentenced to 1-year 9-month prison term on 5/20/2013.
16.	Jeyhun Garyagdı Guliyev	10/5/2012	233; 315.2	Prison No. 14	Sentenced to 5-year prison term on 4/22/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court on 12/19/2013.
17.	Sakhavat Huseyn Guliyev	10/5/2012	233	Baku Investigative Prison	Sentenced to 2-year prison term on 6/4/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court in July 2013.
18.	Muraday Mursal Quluyev	10/5/2012	233; 315.2	Prison No. 17	Sentenced to 5-year prison term on 4/22/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court on 12/19/2013.
19.	Vahid Yusif Lalakishiyev	10/5/2012	233	Prison No. 17	Sentenced to 2-year prison term on 6/3/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court in July 2013.
20.	Ramil Babaxan Mehdiyev	10/5/2012	233	Prison No. 16	Sentenced to 2-year prison term on 6/3/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court in August 2013.
21.	Aydin Canbakhish Mammadov	10/5/2012	233	Prison No. 17	Sentenced to 2-years 3-month prison term on 6/4/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court in July 2013.
22.	Elchin Alisafa Mammadov	10/5/2012	233	Baku Investigative Prison	Sentenced to 1-year 9-month prison term on 6/3/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court in August 2013.
23.	Elchin Fizuli Mammadov	10/5/2012	233	Baku Investigative Prison	Sentenced to 1-year 9-month prison term on 6/4/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court in July 2013.
24.	Nofal Khurshud Mammadov	10/5/2012	233	Prison No. 5	Sentenced to 1-year 9-month prison term on 5/20/2013.
25.	Yusif Mirzayev	10/5/2012	233	Prison No. 16	Sentenced to 1-year 9-month prison term on 5/20/2013.
26.	Elshad Fikrat Rzayev	2/23/2012	233; 315.2	Prison No. 16	Sentenced to 6-year prison term on 6/3/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court in August 2013.
27.	Sahil Xalid Rzayev	10/5/2012	233	Prison No. 16	Sentenced to 2-year prison term on 6/4/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court in July, 2013.
28.	Telman Shirali Shiraliyev	10/5/2012	233; 315.2	Prison No. 16	Sentenced to 6-year prison term on 4/22/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court on 12/19/2013.

	NAME	DATE OF ARREST	ARTICLES OF THE CRIMINAL CODE	PLACE OF DETENTION	STATUS
29.	Bayramali Gurbanali Valishov	10/5/2012	233	Prison No. 16	Sentenced to 2-year prison term on 6/4/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court in July 2013.
30.	Dadash Tofiq Valiyev	10/5/2012	233	Prison No. 17	Sentenced to 2-year prison term on 6/4/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court in July 2013.
31.	Ramil Rahim Valiyev	10/5/2012	167.2.1	Prison No. 5	Sentenced to 6.5-year prison term on 6/3/2013; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court in August 2013.

## **Case Description**

Persons arrested with journalist Nijat Aliyev, editor of www.azad.xeber.az, a Muslim website. Aliyev, other journalists, and young people were arrested in 2013 for campaigning against the arrests of religious believers and for distributing discs with religious materials (including sermons by imprisoned Muslim leaders Abdul Suleymanov and Tale Bagirov).

	NAME	DATE OF ARREST/ TRIAL	ARTICLES OF THE CRIMINAL CODE	PLACE OF DETENTION	STATUS
1.	Nidjat Aliyev	05/20/2012	167.2.2.1; 234.1; 282.1; 283.2.2	Unknown	Sentenced to 10 years in prison
2.	Valeh Mammadaga Abdullayev	12/9/2013	167.2.2.1; 281.2; 283.2.3	Baku Investigative Prison	Sentenced to 8-year prison term on 12/9/2013.
3.	Qorkhmaz Huseyn Jamalov	1/18/2013	167.2.2.1; 281.2; 283.2.3	Baku Investigative Prison	Sentenced to 8-year prison term on 12/9/2013.
4.	Ali Etibar Aliyev	12/9/2013	167.2.2.1; 283.2.3	Baku Investigative Prison	Sentenced to 4-year prison term on 12/9/2013.
5.	Elimkhan Gurbankhan Husey- nov	5/22/2012	167.2.2.1; 283.2.3	Baku Investigative Prison	Sentenced to 7-year prison term on 12/9/2013.
6.	Samir Khanpasha Huseynov	5/23/2012	167.2.2.1; 228.1; 228.4; 283.2.3	Baku Investigative Prison	Sentenced to 6-year prison term on 12/9/2013.
7.	Safar Rovshan Mammadov	12/9/2013	167.2.2.1; 283.2.3	Baku Investigative Prison	Sentenced to 3-years 4 month prison term 12/9/2013.
8.	Elvin Nuraddin Nasirov	5/20/2013	167.2.2.1; 234.4.1; 234.4.3; 281.2; 283.2.3	Baku Investigative Prison	Sentenced to 9-year prison term on 12/9/2013.
9.	Jeyhun Zabil Safarli	5/20/2013	167.2.2.1; 234.4.1; 234.4.3; 281.2; 283.2.3	Baku Investigative Prison	Sentenced to 9-year prison term on 12/9/2013.

	NAME	DATE OF ARREST/ TRIAL	ARTICLES OF THE CRIMINAL CODE	PLACE OF DETENTION	STATUS
10.	Emin Yadigar Tofidi	1/16/2013	167.2.2.1; 283.2.3	Baku Investigative Prison	Sentenced to 3.5-year prison term on 12/9/2013.

## **Case Description**

Persons arrested in the Masalli region along with journalist Araz Guliyev, editor of www.xeber44.com, a website critical of Azeri policies on religion. In 2012, six Muslims from Masalli were arrested on various false charges, including stoning people during a local folk festival. The defendants assisted in Gulieyev's activities as a journalist.

	NAME	DATE OF ARREST	ARTICLES OF THE CRIMINAL CODE	PLACE OF DETENTION	STATUS
1.	Araz Guliyev	09/08/2012	228.1; 233; 283.1; 315.2; 324	Unknown	Sentenced to 8 years in prison on 04/5/2013.
2.	Rza Gorkhmaz Agali	9/9/2012	233; 315.2	Prison No. 14	Sentenced to 7-year prison term on 4/5/2013; ruling upheld by Shirvan Appeals Court on 1/9/2014.
3.	Suraj Valeh Agayev	9/15/2012	233; 315.2	Prison No. 5	Sentenced to 5-year prison term on 4/5/2013; ruling upheld by Shirvan Appeals Court on 1/9/2014.
4.	Nijat Yaser Aliyev	9/18/2012	233; 315.2	Prison No. 16	Sentenced to 4.5-year prison term on 4/5/2013; ruling upheld by Shirvan Appeals Court on 1/9/2014.
5.	Khalid Nofal Kazimov	9/14/2012	233; 234.4.3; 315.2; 324	Prison No. 6	Sentenced to 8-year prison term on 4/5/2013; ruling upheld by Shirvan Appeals Court on 1/9/2014.
6.	Namig Alisa Kishiyev	9/18/2012	233; 315.2	Prison No. 5	Sentenced to 4.5-year prison term on 4/5/2013; ruling upheld by Shirvan Appeals Court on 1/9/2014.
7.	Ziya brahim Tahirov	9/9/2012	233; 315.2	Prison No. 5	Sentenced to 7-year prison term on 4/5/2013; ruling upheld by Shirvan Appeals Court on 1/9/2014.

#### **Case Description**

Tale Kamil Bagırov (also known as Taleh Bagirzadeh) a well-known Muslim theologian, was arrested after a video of his speech in a mosque was posted to the internet. His speech was highly critical of Azerbaijani laws and policies on religion as well as illegal arrests of religious adherents and others. He was arrested on charges of drug possession.

	NAME	DATE OF ARREST	ARTICLES OF THE CRIMINAL CODE	PLACE OF DETENTION	STATUS
1.	Tale Kamil Bagırov	3/31/2013	234.1	Baku Investigative Prison	Sentenced to 2-year prison term on 11/1/2013.

#### **Case Description**

Abgul Neymat Suleymanov is an influential Muslim religious teacher, activist, founder of the "National-moral Values" Public Union and leading participant in protests of mosque destruction. He was arrested in mid 2011 on suspicion of assisting a foreign state and its delegates in inciting enmity against Azerbaijan, as well as mass unrest, violation of public safety, and encouraging disobedience.

	NAME	DATE OF ARREST	ARTICLES OF THE CRIMINAL CODE	PLACE OF DETENTION	STATUS
1.	Abgul Neymat Suleymanov	8/12/2011	228.1; 233; 234.1; 234.4.3; 283.2.1	Prison No. 8	Sentenced to 11-year prison term on 8/10/2012; ruling upheld by Baku Appeals Court on 1/23/2013.

#### **Case Description**

Abgul Suleymanov is a leader of the *Jafari Heylyat* (Life of Jafar) Muslim religious congregation in Baku. As part of an official sweep against popular Muslim leaders, he was arrested on August 12, 2011 on the false charge of "hostile activity against Azerbaijan, aiding to a foreign state and its representatives, abetting to disorders, public security and civil disobedience".

	NAME	DATE OF ARREST	ARTICLES OF THE CRIMINAL CODE	PLACE OF DETENTION	STATUS
1.	Abgul Suleymanov	8/12/ 2011	228.1; 234; 283.2.1	Unknown	Sentenced to 11 years in prison on 8/10/2012.

# Relevant Articles in Azerbaijan's Criminal Code

ARTICLE	DESCRIPTION				
167.2.1	Import, sale and distribution of religious literature, religious items and other informational materials of religious nature with the aim of reproduction, sale and distribution without appropriate authorization				
167.2.2.1	Import, sale and distribution of religious literature, religious items and other informational materials of religious nature with the aim of reproduction, sale and distribution without appropriate authorization, committed in advance agreement by a group of persons or organized group				
214.2.1	Preparing to commit a crime [act of terror] through advance arrangement by a group of persons, an organized group or criminal community (criminal organization)				
214.2.3	Preparing to commit a crime with fire-arms or objects used as a weapon				
221.3	Hooliganism committed with the use of a weapon or objects used as a weapon				
228.1	Illegal purchase, transfer, sale, storage, transportation or carrying of fire-arms, accessories to them, supplies (except for smooth-bore hunting weapons and ammunition), and explosives				
228.3	Illegal purchase, transfer, sale, storage, transportation or carrying of fire-arms, accessories to them, supplies (except for smooth-bore hunting weapons and ammunition), explosives and facilities, committed by an orga- nized group				
228.4	Illegal purchase, selling or carrying of gas weapons, side arms, including throwing weapons, except for districts where carrying side arms is an accessory of a national suit or connected to hunting				
233	Organization of or active participation in actions leading to a breach of public order				
234	Illegal acquisition, keeping and carrying of narcotic drugs				
234.1	Illegal purchase or storage (without intention of selling) of narcotics or psychotropic substances in a quantity (amount) exceeding what is necessary for personal consumption				
234.4.1	Illegal purchase or storage (without intention of selling) of narcotics or psychotropic substances in a quantity (amount) exceeding what is necessary for personal consumption, committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons or organized group				
234.4.3	Illegal purchase or storage (without intention of selling) of narcotics or psychotropic substances in a quantity (amount) exceeding what is necessary for personal consumption, committed in large amount				
278	Actions aimed at the violent capture of power or violent deduction power in infringement of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as aimed at the violent change of the state's constitutional grounds				
281.2	Public appeals to violent capture of authority, violent deduction of authority or violent change in constitutional grounds or infringement of territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as distribution of materials with such contents, committed by a group of persons				
283.1	Actions directed at provoking national, racial or religious hostility, humiliation of national advantage, as well as actions meant to restrict citizens rights, or to establish superiority of citizens on the basis of their nationality or race, and creeds committed publicly or with use of mass media				
283.2.1	Actions directed at provoking national, racial or religious hostility, humiliation of national advantage, as well as actions meant to restrict citizens rights, or to establish superiority of citizens on the basis of their nationality or race, and creeds committed publicly or with use of mass media – committed with application of violence or with threat of its application				
283.2.2	Incitement of ethnic, racial, social or religious hatred and enmity by using his position				
283.2.3	Actions directed at provoking national, racial or religious hostility, humiliation of national advantage, as well as actions meant to restrict citizens rights, or establish superiority of citizens on the basis of their nationality or race, and creeds committed publicly or with use of mass media by organized group				
315.2	Resistance or application of violence to representatives of authority				
324	Actions insulting the National Flag or State Emblem of the Republic of Azerbaijan				