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Europe & ex-USSR - Azerbaijan

Freedom for Fatullayev !

Azerbaijan turns a deaf ear

17 March 2011

Reporters Without Borders is alarmed by a deterioration in newspaper editor **Eynulla Fatullayev's** prison conditions. Held since 2007, Fatullayev was transferred on 2 March to Baku Prison No. 1, where he has received serious threats from fellow inmates, his lawyer, Anar Gasimov, said at a news conference yesterday.

Confirming the information, leading journalist **Shahveled Chobanoglu** said some inmates were even ready to kill Fatullayev because of his past investigative reporting. The situation is so serious that he prefers to stay in solitary confinement, despite serious health problems. "He is under great stress and is coughing constantly," Gasimov added.

Fatullayev is so desperate that he has written to President Ilham Aliyev asking him to intercede to get him released.

Reporters Without Borders joins the International Partnership Group for Azerbaijan in welcoming the decision by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers on 10 March to urge Azerbaijan to respect a [European Court of Human Rights ruling last April](#) that Fatullayev was illegally detained and should be released.

A series of trumped up charges have been used to keep Fatullayev in prison since April 2007. The latest was [possession of heroin in prison](#).

Joint Statement :

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