



- Inga and Anush - Armenian singers in Eurovision song contest

Azerbaijani Minister Criticizes RFE/RL Over Eurovision Interrogation Story



Rovshan Nasirli was questioned about his vote for Armenia in the song contest.

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BAKU -- The Azerbaijani Minister of Youth and Sport has criticized RFE/RL for covering news about the interrogation of some people who voted for the Armenian entry in the Eurovision Song Contest.

Azad Rahimov says RFE/RL used the information that "someone was summoned to somewhere" to make a scandal.

If you were a government

- That falsify elections
- That is corrupt
- That steals oil money in non-transparent construction projects
- Where the presidency inherited from father to son
- Introducing cult of personality
- Falsify jobs statistics to claim economic achievements

TV CHANNELS

- AZ TV (state funded, controlled)
- ITV (Public, state funded, controlled)
- ATV (private, ran by relatives)
- LIDER (private, ran by relatives)
- SPACE (private, controlled)
- ANS (private, controlled)
- KHAZAR (private, controlled)

International

- RFE/RL (extensive local coverage)
- BBC (mostly foreign news with some local coverage)
- VOA (mostly foreign news with very little local coverage)

INTERNET

- One company controls 85 % of internet traffic
- Internet penetration is low in regions
- Prices for internet extremely high
- Government enjoy legislative and logistical opportunity to track communication via internet
- Arrest of internet activists

Arrest of internet activists



- Emin Milli and Adnan Hajizada, bloggers arrested in July, 2009

Rate of solved crimes – 98%

Rate of solved crimes against journalists – 0%

- 44 physical assaults, psychological threats and beating facts were recorded against journalists in 2008. Physical pressures were applied both by ordinary people, police officers and other state officials
- **Most of the assaults were against critic journalists and was not investigated. Despite the fact that some incidents were investigated, but the accused were not brought before a court.**

Criminal and civil complaints against journalists

- **63 court cases were instituted against mass media representatives in 2008. 49 of them were initiated by state officials. High ranking political and administrative state officials participated directly in some of the cases. Main target group of the complaints and lawsuits were journalists criticizing the government.**



- Elmar Huseynov, the editor of Monitor magazine was killed in 2005, assassins are yet to be found



- Ganimat Zahid, editor-in-chief of Azadliq newspaper,
- arrested in 2007 with hooliganism charge, listed as political prisoner



- Eynulla Fatullayev, editor in chief of Realniy Azerbaijan, arrested in 2007, serves 8,6 years imprisonment for the article, that was considered by authorities as a threat of terror



- Fikret Huseynli, investigative journalist of Azadliq newspaper



- Uzeyir Jafarov, author of critical articles about Ministry of Defense, beaten in 2007