



**Permanent Mission  
of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
to the UN Office and other  
International Organizations**

**GENEVA**

Ref: 0037/12/17/17

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and, with reference to the latter's Note Verbale dated 22 December 2016, has the honour to transmit herewith the relevant information of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan regarding the UN General Assembly Resolution 70/162 entitled "The safety of journalists and the issue of impunity".

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 3 February 2017

Enclosure: 2 pages



Office of the United Nations  
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## **Questionnaire for Member States for the report of the Secretary-General on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity**

**1. Please identify the gender-specific obstacles and human rights violations, or risks thereof, faced by women journalists working in your country or abroad. Please elaborate on how these obstacles and violations manifest themselves in practice and how they differ from the obstacles and human rights violations faced by their male counterparts.**

Since the beginning of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, there were numerous cases when journalists, including women journalists, had to face serious risks in the form of threats while reporting from the conflict zone.

During an active phase of the ongoing Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan around 13 journalists became victims of Armenian armed forces, 9 of whom died. Among them was a woman journalist Salatyn Asgarova working for the newspaper "Youth of Azerbaijan". On 9 January 1991, the vehicle in which 29-year-old journalist was heading to Shusha was fired upon by Armenian militants, as a result of which Salatyn Asgarova perished.

**2. Please indicate whether you monitor and collect information and disaggregated data (e.g. by sex, gender identity, ethnicity, age, online/offline, subject matter focus areas of work) specifically on the gender specific barriers and human rights violations, or risks thereof, faced by women journalists.**

State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan collects data on gender-related development index, gender empowerment measure, gender inequality index, gender distribution of internet users, population by sex and age, etc.

**3. What measures have you adopted to address the issue of the safety of women journalists, including the underlying causes of the obstacles and human rights violations experienced by women journalists? How do these measures differ from those adopted to address the issue of safety of journalists more generally, or the safety of male journalists? Please elaborate on the impact of any measures adopted.**

There are no special provisions regarding woman journalists in the Azerbaijani legislation. *Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Article 25)* ensures equal rights and freedoms of men and women.

*Article 382 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Azerbaijan*, envisages fines (from two hundred to three hundred Azerbaijani Manats (AZN)) in case if journalist's request is not responded within the time frame defined by law.

Fines (from three hundred to five hundred AZN) are envisaged for implying limitations or refusing to provide a journalist with necessary information, except the cases when information is safeguarded by law.

According to *Article 163 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan*, preventing professional activities of journalists by using force or threatening by the use of force to disseminate or to refuse to disseminate the information shall be punished with corrective work for up to one year, or fines (from one hundred to five hundred AZN). The same

actions by officials abusing their authority shall be punished by deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or corrective work for up to two years, or, imprisonment for up to one year.

In accordance with *the Article 29 of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Mass Media*, mass media outlets have a right to get information from state bodies, social organizations and officials as well. If government agencies or officials refuse to provide information, media representatives may complain to their upper body or officials and then appeal to the court. According to *Article 35 of the same Law* the state guarantees journalists to conduct their professional activities and social security, provides protection of their honor and dignity, health, life and property.

**4. Are the measures – if any – referred to in response to Question 3 above part of a “gender-sensitive approach” (see General Assembly resolution 70/162. page 3)? If so, what does this approach consist of?**

**5. Do you have any laws and/or policies or initiatives (e.g. training, awareness-raising) to address harmful gender stereotypes, intersecting forms of discrimination and other human rights violations experienced by women journalists in the course of carrying out their work (e.g. in the workplace, in the field, online)?**

In 2014 special workshop on "Women's empowerment – social progress" for the journalists was held in connection with the International Day on Combating Violence Against Women in the framework of the conference "The role of the Mass Media in prevention of Domestic violence and early marriages".

Conference on "Awareness-raising of media on family, woman and child issues: achievements and perspectives" is held by the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs annually.

**6. Do you have any laws and/or policies or initiatives (e.g. training, awareness-raising) to address violations of international humanitarian law committed against women journalists?**

**7. What are the challenges you face in ensuring accountability for human rights violations committed against women journalists?**

**8. How have you cooperated with the relevant UN entities on the situation of women journalists and what is the nature of the information that you have shared on the status of the investigations into discrimination, attacks and violence against women journalists?**

**9. Please indicate if you have developed specific initiatives and monitoring frameworks to ensure the safety of women journalists under the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 5 and Goal 16.**

By the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 6 October 2016 the National Coordinating Council on Sustainable Development was established to identify national priorities and indications relevant to targets, to bring national programmes and strategies in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and to prepare annual reports on progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.