

The number of political prisoners in Azerbaijan has reached 392

On 7 October, the Union for the Freedom for Political Prisoners of Azerbaijan released a new report on political prisoners in the country. According to the report, there are currently 392 political prisoners in Azerbaijan.

The report classifies the prisoners into 12 categories. Among them are 31 journalists and bloggers, 7 human rights defenders, 39 socio-political activists, 5 representatives of national minorities, 2 anti-war activists, 5 deported political asylum seekers, 249 religious believers, and 12 serving life sentences.

In addition, 2 people related to the “Söyüdlü case,” 19 to the “İmişli case,” 8 to the “Tartar case,” and 13 to the “Ganja case” are included in the list of political prisoners.

The list was compiled by human rights defenders Leyla Yunus, Director of the Institute for Peace and Democracy, and Elshan Hasanov, Head of the Public Union “Center for Monitoring Political Prisoners.”

They applied the definition of “political prisoner” based on the criteria set by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

International human rights organizations call on the Azerbaijani authorities to release all political prisoners. The Azerbaijani government, however, denies the existence of political prisoners in the country and considers the claims of both local and international organizations to be unfounded.