

Free expression and freedom of media really lives its very hard days during last twelve months.

We got after the Elmar Huseynov's assassination in 2005 the second cruel murder of prominent critical journalist in Azerbaijan in October last year. Rafiq Tagi, excellent writer who in 2007 was imprisoned by government for his article "Europe and we" was stabbed by unidentified by investigation person then died suddenly after week in hospital.

No information about development of investigation. The group of journalists investigating the issue declared that the prosecutor office is not so enthusiastic to investigate the case. Government didn't properly inform not only the public but also the family of Rafiq Tagi. Together with unsolved Elmar Huseynov's killing Rafiq Tagi case lays dark shadow over journalistic safety, the safety of critical voices in country.

11 persons are in prison for their critical for government voices. Avaz Zeynalli, the owner and editor of Xural newspaper jailed for his critical articles about the top government officials. Officially he was charged for alleged blackmailing of Member of Parliament, the member of high Council of ruling party. He charged also for non-execution of court judgment to pay compensation for alleged moral damages to the Head of Presidential Administration, to the Chairman of State Media Support Fund and to the Director of State Printing House operated by Presidential Administration. Journalist Faramaz Allahverdiyev sentenced for his posts in Facebook, the director of Xayal TV company Vuqar Qonaqov and editor-in-chief of this TV station Zaur Quliyev jailed for dissemination of the speech of the head of local governor using bad language about the local citizens.

Aydin Caniyev, the journalist from Xural newspaper, Taleh Xasmammadov human rights defender and Ilham Ismayilov the journalist were sentenced for hooliganism. Other journalists working for religious media officially jailed for drug abuse, possession of weapon, etc.

Xadica Ismail the prominent investigative journalist got threats to stop publication of her investigation. Then the film about her private life recorded by hidden camera built in her home posted in specially created web site and in Youtube. Official investigation launched by Prosecutor office has no any tangible result yet.

Physical integrity of journalists remains great source of concerns as the serious attacks to journalists remains investigated sufficiently and perpetrators brought to justice. Seymour Haziyevev the journalist from the critical to government newspaper Azadliq was kidnapped and tortured. Official investigation was terminated by police and prosecutor office even after the Appellate court find that the case has not been properly investigated. Seymour Haziyevevs' another case where he was tortured by unnamed person in prison in 2011 where he placed for participation in protest march. The brutal assault of Idrak Abbasov by State Oil Company security forces while journalist tried to picture the demolition of houses and eviction of householders faced same fate.

Oppositional newspapers now in the eve of close down as the newspaper distribution set in Baku wholly destroyed and new stands placed them don't accept and sell critical to government newspapers like Azadliq, Yeni Musavat and

Bizim Yol. After street sell of newspapers was prohibited the distribution of most seller newspapers deprived of their readers. They also deprived of their financial revenues totally as they didn't have advertisement money before because of the unofficial ban.