44th session of the UPR Working Group

Review of Azerbaijan

Recommendations by Sweden

14 November 2023

Delivered by: Mr. Fredrik Nivaeus, Deputy Permanent Representative

President,

Sweden is seriously concerned by the continued repression against government critics and independent civil society actors, including journalists, human rights defenders, and lawyers. Other areas of concern include the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association, media freedom as well as the situation of prisoners and the rule of law.

Sweden would like to make the following recommendations:

* End all politically motivated legal proceedings against government critics and independent civil society actors, including journalists, human rights defenders, and lawyers.
* Ensure respect for the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and association, including by taking into account the recommendations of the Venice Commission when implementing the new Laws on Media and on Political Parties.
* Ensure the safety and human rights of ethnic Armenians in Nagorno Karabakh, including their right to return without being exposed to threats or discrimination.

Thank you.