

STUDENTS TORTURED AND JAILED FOR GRAFFITI

BAYRAM & GIYAS AZERBAIJAN

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They protested in the only way they knew how. Fed up with an increasingly authoritarian state, students Bayram Mammadov and Giyas Ibrahimov sprayed an angry message on the statue of Azerbaijan's former president, whose son currently rules the country.

The message read "Happy slave day", a play on the slogan "Happy Flower Day" which is celebrated on 10 May, the former president's birthday. The young men posted a photo of their action on Facebook on 9 May 2016. They were arrested within a few hours and charged with drug possession.

Bayram and Giyas say that the police planted heroin on them. The fact that they were arrested shortly after painting the statue, and that they were only interrogated about the graffiti, exposes the charges for what they are: a complete fabrication.

Both young men were severely beaten and forced to make false confessions. "They took my pants off and threatened to rape me with a baton," Bayram later wrote from prison. "I had to 'confess' and sign a statement drafted by them."

Bayram and Giyas are locked up awaiting trial. They face up to 12 years in prison – all for a graffiti protest.

Urge Azerbaijan's President to free Bayram and Giyas now.

**WRITE A LETTER
CHANGE A LIFE**



Write to the President of Azerbaijan

Ask him to drop all charges against Bayram and Giyas, and release the two students immediately.

Ilham Aliyev
Office of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
19 Istiqlaliyyat Street
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Show Bayram and Giyas that you support them

Help keep their spirits up by sending them cards, letters and drawings. Please include "Möhkəm ol" ("stay strong") in your message.

Bayram Mammadov / Giyas Ibrahimov
Baki Investigation Isolator (Kurdakhany Detention Facility)
Sabunchu District
Zabrat 2 settlement
AZ 1104
Azerbaijan

Let us know if you wrote on this case by reporting back to: [AMNESTYUSA.ORG/W4RIMPACT](https://www.amnestyusa.org/w4rimpact)