

Van: Human Rights Watch <news@hrw.org>
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Aan: Veerle Solia
Onderwerp: Threats, detention, and an intimate video in Azerbaijan

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THE WEEK IN RIGHTS

September 5, 2013

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Smeared for Uncovering Corruption in Azerbaijan



Someone placed a hidden camera in Khadija Ismayilova's bedroom. They recorded her, planning to blackmail her and force her to give up reporting. She is, after all, one of the few Azerbaijani journalists who still have the courage to do hard hitting investigative work. While threats from thugs convince other journalists to self-censor, Khadija has reported extensively on government corruption – all the way up to the family of the autocratic president, Ilham Aliyev, himself the son of the country's former president and former KGB general.

I've known Khadija for five years and I call her my friend. I doubt it was a coincidence that the sexually explicit video of Khadija and her boyfriend surfaced soon after the American broadcaster CNBC aired a segment entitled "Filthy Rich." It explored President Aliyev's family's Dubai real estate holdings – including nine homes worth tens of millions owned by his pre-teen grandson. Khadija had consulted for the report.

That video of Khadija – posted by a fake news website that pretended to be connected with an opposition party – put her in physical danger.

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[Dispatches: Syria - Protecting Civilians Should Be Top Priority](#)

As the United States prepares to lead a military attack in Syria, the campaign will be measured by its consequences. Will it enhance protection for all Syrian civilians, regardless of how they are attacked? Or does the United States have other plans for doing that? Neither President Barack Obama nor Secretary of State John Kerry has said.

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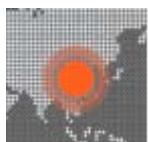


[In Zimbabwe, a Human Rights Agenda for President Mugabe](#)

President Robert Mugabe should publicly express his personal commitment to meeting Zimbabwe's human rights obligations. He should take responsibility for ensuring that rights are protected and that his officials uphold the law.

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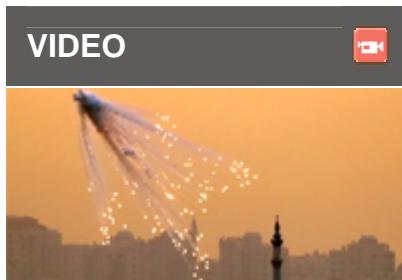


[In Cambodia, Government Obstructs Khmer Rouge Court](#)

Prime Minister Hun Sen has spent years obstructing the trials of former Khmer Rouge leaders, but donors to the court have played along and continued to subsidize a seriously compromised court.

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Napalm, White Phosphorus & the Case to Ban Incendiary Weapons

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See photos of the Azerbaijanis – opposition supporters, bloggers, journalists – who are currently behind bars. [View Now >>](#)



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