



PRESS RELEASE
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**New Presidential Decree on the Preparation for
2005 Parliamentary Elections**

President Ilham Aliyev has announced significant changes in the run-up for November 6 Parliamentary elections. On 25 October 2005, with a view to ensure free and fair elections, the President issued the decree on “Immediate measures related to the preparation and conduct of elections to the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan”. This decree addresses the latest recommendations of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe and the OSCE. The decree:

- Recommended to the Milli Majlis (Parliament) to consider lifting the ban on election observation by NGOs with more than 30 percent share or financing from foreign entities;
- Recommended that the Central Election Commission:
 - allow use of invisible ink on fingers of voters receiving ballots in order to prevent multiple voting;
 - prepare guidelines to investigate election irregularity complaints;
 - investigate irregularities committed by candidates during the pre-election campaign;
 - create necessary conditions for interested parties to become familiar with voters lists, which include the addresses of voters;
- Ordered the Ministry of Internal Affairs to provide citizens lacking necessary documents with identification cards;
- Instructed the Ministry of Communications and Azenergy to take necessary measures to ensure uninterrupted communication and energy supplies for buildings where district and local election commissions are located;
- Ordered the Ministry of Internal Affairs and local law-enforcement authorities to create the necessary conditions for political parties to assemble during the pre-election campaign;
- Urged the Public Prosecutors Office to immediately investigate complaints regarding election irregularities and bring to justice those implicated in fraudulent acts;
- Instructed all relevant state institutions to report to the President within five days on the implementation of assignments stipulated in the decree 11 May 2005 on improving elections practices.

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