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RELEASE
NEWS

THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION / EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

U.S. State Department Human Rights Reports For The Year 2001

March 5, 2002

On Monday, March 4, the United States Department of State released to the general public its annual Country Report on Human Rights for Azerbaijan for the year 2001. The report describes some improvements in Azerbaijan's human rights situation but notes that the Government's human rights record remained poor.

Each year, the United States department of State submits 195 human rights reports for countries all over the world to the Congress, highlighting progress and areas of concern with respect to internationally recognized human rights as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Speaking March 4 on the release of the U.S. human rights reports, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell declared that the United States "reaffirms what our nation has stood for since its earliest days -- for human rights, for democracy and for the rule of law." In addition, Powell said that the U.S. "will also fully explore the new opportunities that have been created by international cooperation against terrorism to establish, expand and deepen discussions with other governments on human rights issues. The United States welcomes the help of any country or party that is genuinely prepared to work with us to eradicate terrorism. At the same time, we will not relax our commitment to advancing the cause of human rights and democracy."

A full copy of the report is available in English at the Department of State Website <http://usinfo.state.gov/topical/rights>. Copies in English and Azerbaijani can be obtained from the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Baku.