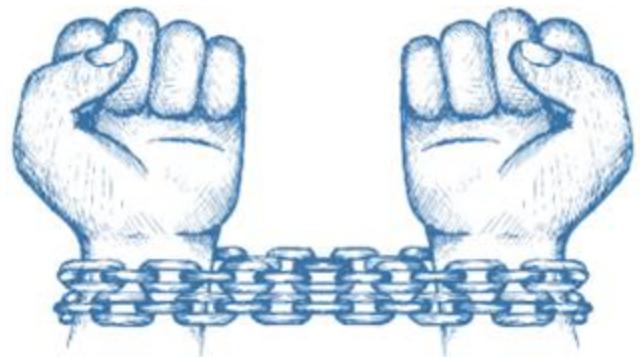




Community Sanctions and Probation Activities in Azerbaijan: A New Era, Emerging Trends

Vugar Aghayev
Director of the Probation
Service of the Ministry of
Justice of the Republic of
Azerbaijan



Historical Context: Post-Soviet Penal Policy

In the early post-Soviet period, the penal system was predominantly characterized by **punitive and non-rehabilitative approaches**.

There was **limited confidence** in alternative sanctions, and their effectiveness was largely underestimated within the justice system.



**The Presidential Decree of the Republic of Azerbaijan
dated 10 February 2017 is regarded as the first and
foundational legal instrument in this field.**



AKTİN NÖVÜ

AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKƏ Sİ PREZİDENTİNİN SƏRƏNCAMLARI

QƏBUL EDİLDİYİ TARİX

10.02.2017

QEYDİYYAT NÖMRƏSİ

2688

ADI

Penitensiar təhdadafadlı yəhən fəkmilləndirilmə ad, ozaq əyəsətinin
humanitəriyalırmadı və onu yoldan torz dezmə illə daşıqdar olaq
alternativ ozaq və protəzəvi mədənliyə yət tədbirələrin in tətbiqinən
genişləndirilmə barədə

RƏSMİ İDARƏ EDİLDİYİMƏ ANŞƏ

Xalq Gəzəsi (Dərəcələnmə tarixi: 11.02.2017, Nəşr Nömrəsi: 31),
Azərbaycan Respublikasının Qanunverdilik Toplusu (Dərəcələnmə tarixi:
28.02.2017, Nəşr Nömrəsi: 02, Məddə Nömrəsi: 248)

QÜVƏYƏ MƏMMƏD ARXİ

11.02.2017

AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKƏ Sİ VAHİD

HÜQUQİ TƏMİFATI ÜZRƏK İNDİKATORU

380.010.000

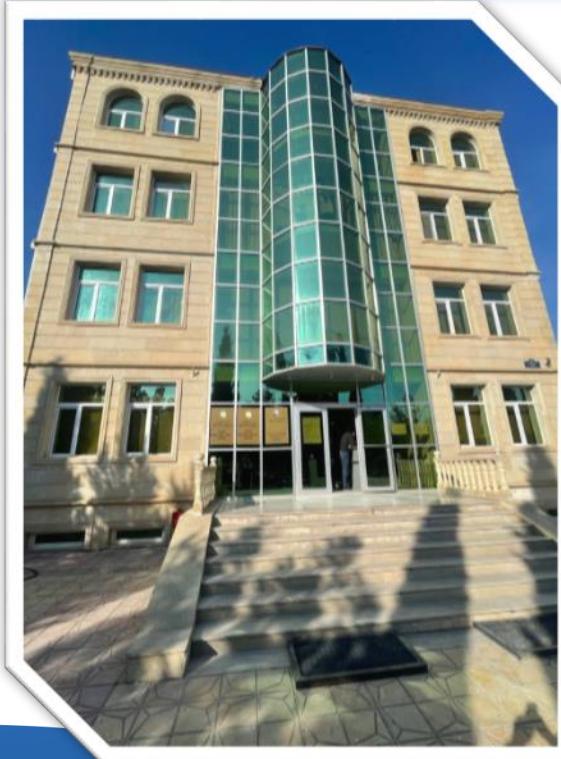
HÜQUQİAKTLARIN DÖVLƏT REYE SİRİNİN
QEYDİYYAT NÖMRƏSİ

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HÜQUQİAKTIN HÜQUQİAKTLARIN DÖVLƏT
REYE SİRİNƏ DAXİL EDİLDİYİ TARİX

13.02.2017

At the regional level, independent probation institutions currently operate in the cities of Baku, Ganja, and Sumgait, with plans to expand this model to other regions across the country.



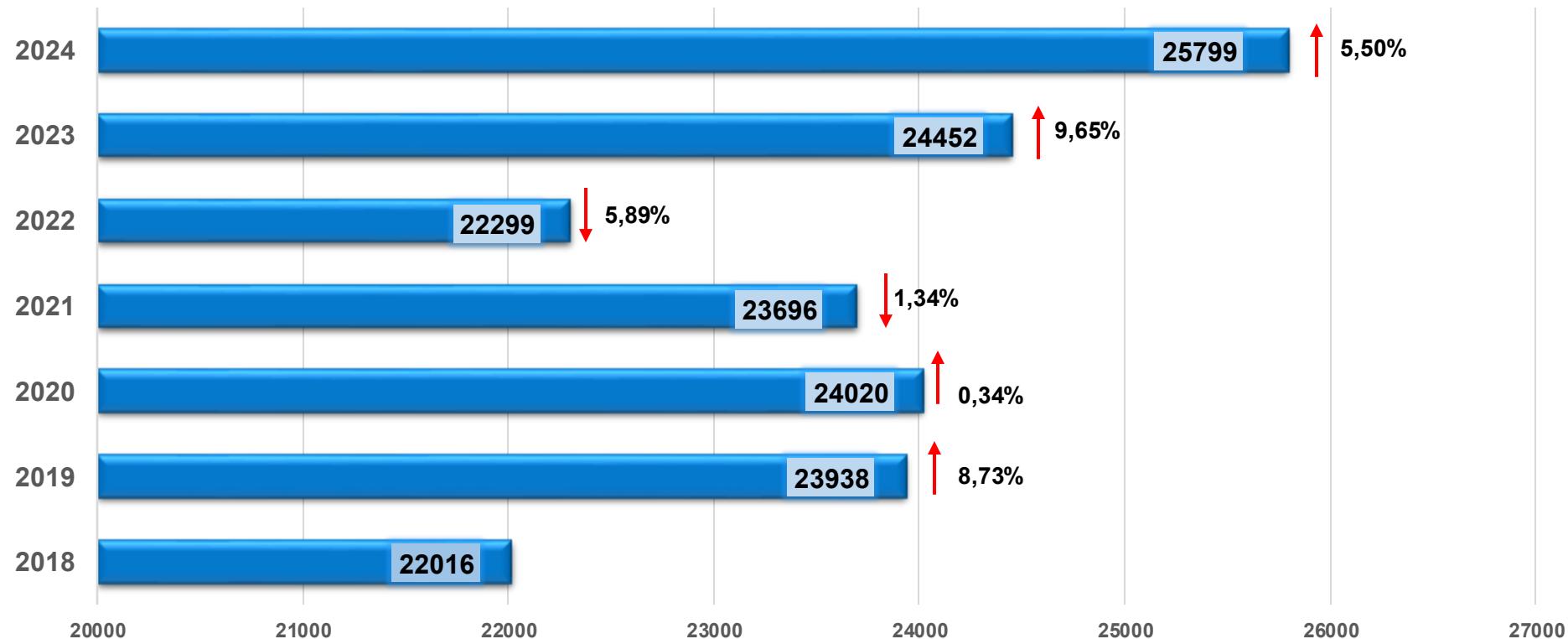
Legislative Reform and Impact on the Penal System

Key Outcomes Observed in 2018 (Compared to 2017):



- **Introduction of a New Type of Sanction restraint of freedom (Late 2017):**
- **Amendments to the legislation allowed for the inclusion of non-custodial sanctions in the sentencing framework for a significant number of criminal offenses.**
- **3% decrease** in the number of individuals sentenced to imprisonment by courts
- **2.1% increase** in the number of individuals sentenced to alternative sanctions or conditionally sentenced
- **6% decrease** in the number of individuals held in penitentiary institutions
- **24.3% increase** in the number of offenders registered with the Probation Service

Persons under the supervision of probation service in 2018-2024



In 2022, A comprehensive amnesty act was adopted by the Parliament

In the second half of 2024, a new trend emerged within the probation system — the focus on **“social adaptation and rehabilitation.”**

On October 4, 2024, a new structure of the Probation Service was approved, establishing the Department of Digital Monitoring, the Department of Analysis and Supervision, and, for the first time, the Department of Social Adaptation and Rehabilitation.

As a result of the individualized and rehabilitation-oriented approach, the number of offenders transferred to closed penitentiary institutions in 2024 decreased approximately fourfold compared to 2023.



In line with the Probation Service’s directives, probation officers have begun engaging directly with victims—ensuring the protection of their rights and initiating their social adaptation and rehabilitation measures.

Cooperation with Academic Institutions

The Probation Service has signed **Memoranda of Understanding and joint action plans** with universities.

Within the framework of this cooperation, **students specializing in social work and psychology** have been engaged as **volunteers** in probation activities.

This initiative has facilitated the **provision of free social and psychological services** to offenders by these volunteers, thereby contributing to their rehabilitation and social reintegration.



Since 2024, nearly 3,000 activities supporting the social adaptation and rehabilitation of offenders have been implemented—through joint efforts of local probation staff, social workers from the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, civil society representatives, and volunteers involved in probation work.

Since 2024, under a joint action plan with the Bar Association, professional lawyers have provided free legal assistance to 150 individuals under probation supervision.

The Probation Service has delivered more than 50 in-person and online trainings—focusing on social adaptation and rehabilitation, the implementation of non-custodial sanctions, challenges in their enforcement, and the broader humanization of penal policy.



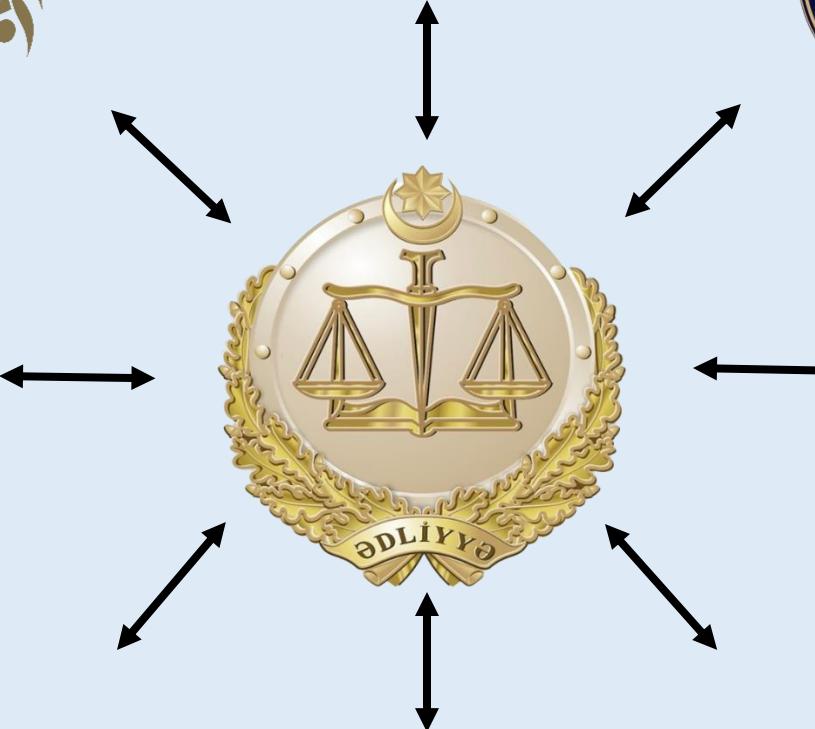


To support the integration of restorative justice into the probation system, over 30 mediators were trained and certified in 2024—and starting from 2025, mediation between offenders and victims was introduced for the first time on a pilot basis.





On 18 February 2025, a Commission was established by order of the Minister of Justice to regulate issues concerning conditional early release from imprisonment for the certain term and life imprisonment. For the first time, the Probation Service was granted membership in this Commission.



Rehabilitation and human-centered transformation in Azerbaijan's probation system are driven by three key forces:

- ✓ Gradual integration into international standards in the field of probation;
- ✓ The application of a multidisciplinary approach in probation practice, encompassing social, psychological, legal, and other components;
- ✓ Regular implementation of awareness-raising activities and training in this field.



**Following its application in August 2024,
the Probation Service was granted full membership
in the Confederation of European Probation (CEP)
on 13 November 2024.**



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Email: secr@cep-probation.org / website: www.cep-probation.org

Mr. Vugar AGHAYEV
Director of the Probation Service
Ministry of Justice
Republic of Azerbaijan

Ref: 2024/JSK/mj/24-055

Utrecht, 20 November 2024

RE: Full membership CEP

Dear Mr. Aghayev,

I am delighted to inform you that the Board has unanimously approved the application for CEP membership of the Ministry of Justice of The Republic of Azerbaijan, as of 13 November 2024.

In accordance with the [Statute, Article III, par. 2](#), the final approval of the admission is subject to confirmation by the General Assembly which will take place on 15 October 2025. With the admission from the Board you already have the same rights and obligations as other full members. CEP's organisational documents – Statute, Internal Regulations, Statement on Probation Values and Principles, Annual Reports, Annual Plans as well as a three-year strategic plan approved by the General Assembly - can be found [here](#). We kindly recommend you to read the documents mentioned.

Full membership gives you full access to all the facilities of CEP. You will be invited to all [CEP events](#) both as participants and speakers, you can also become members of the [CEP expert groups and networks](#), and you will be kept informed about probation developments of our members. Full members have the right to fully take part in the General Assembly. We strongly recommend to follow the [CEP official website](#), social media ([LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)) as well as subscribe for our [YouTube](#) channel and [bi-monthly newsletter](#) for the latest news, events and calls.

The calculation of the subscription fee is based on the decision on subscription fees of the General Assembly in its meeting of 19th October 2022. The subscription fees are fixed by the GA every three years. New members receive a 2/3rd discount on

International Cooperation and Capacity Building

Online Training Sessions (2024):

Organized with the participation of probation service representatives from:

- Türkiye**
- Netherlands**
- Croatia**
- Latvia**

Key Topics Covered:

- Social reintegration and rehabilitation of offenders
- Risk assessment methods
- Application of technology in probation
- Enhancing professional competencies

Study Visit to **Türkiye** (April 2025):

- A delegation of **13 representatives** visited **Ankara**
- Purpose: In-depth familiarization with **Türkiye's** probation practices



Cooperation with Civil Society and Specialized international and regional organizations

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in 2025 between the Probation Service of the Ministry of Justice and *Reliable Future* Youth NGO.
- Purpose: To support the social and psychological rehabilitation and reintegration of probationers through joint actions.
- Focus groups: Juveniles and women under probation supervision.
- Joint activities include:
 - Educational workshops and awareness campaigns
 - Application of modern social work and psychological support methods
 - Strengthening reintegration efforts through community-based initiatives
- In 2025, this cooperation model began expanding to include partnerships with local NGOs across various regions.

Azerbaijan has also strengthened its cooperation with international organizations. Key partnerships have been established with UNICEF, the European Union, and the Council of Europe in the field of probation.





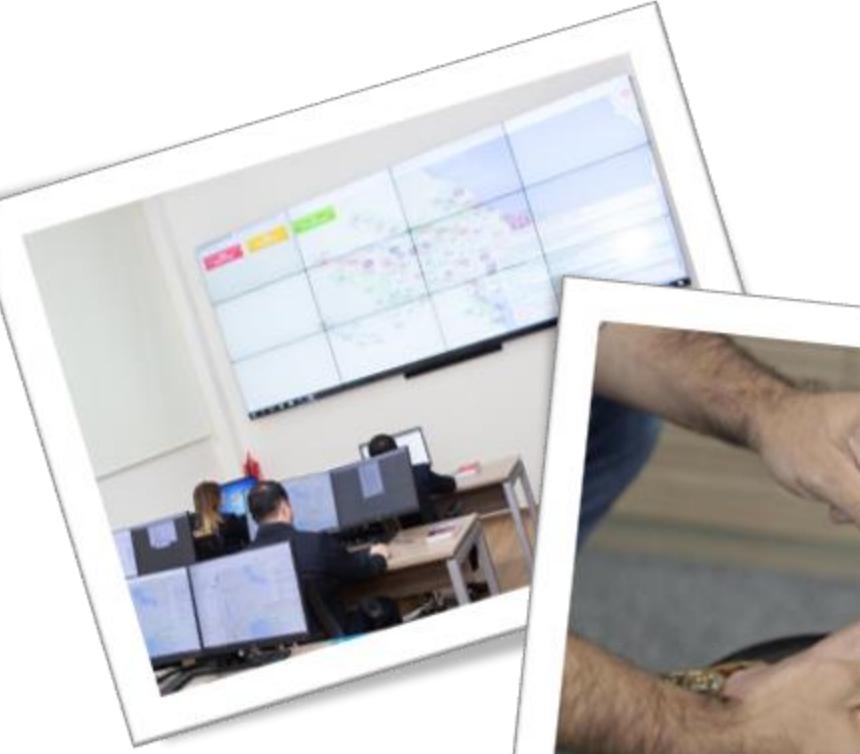
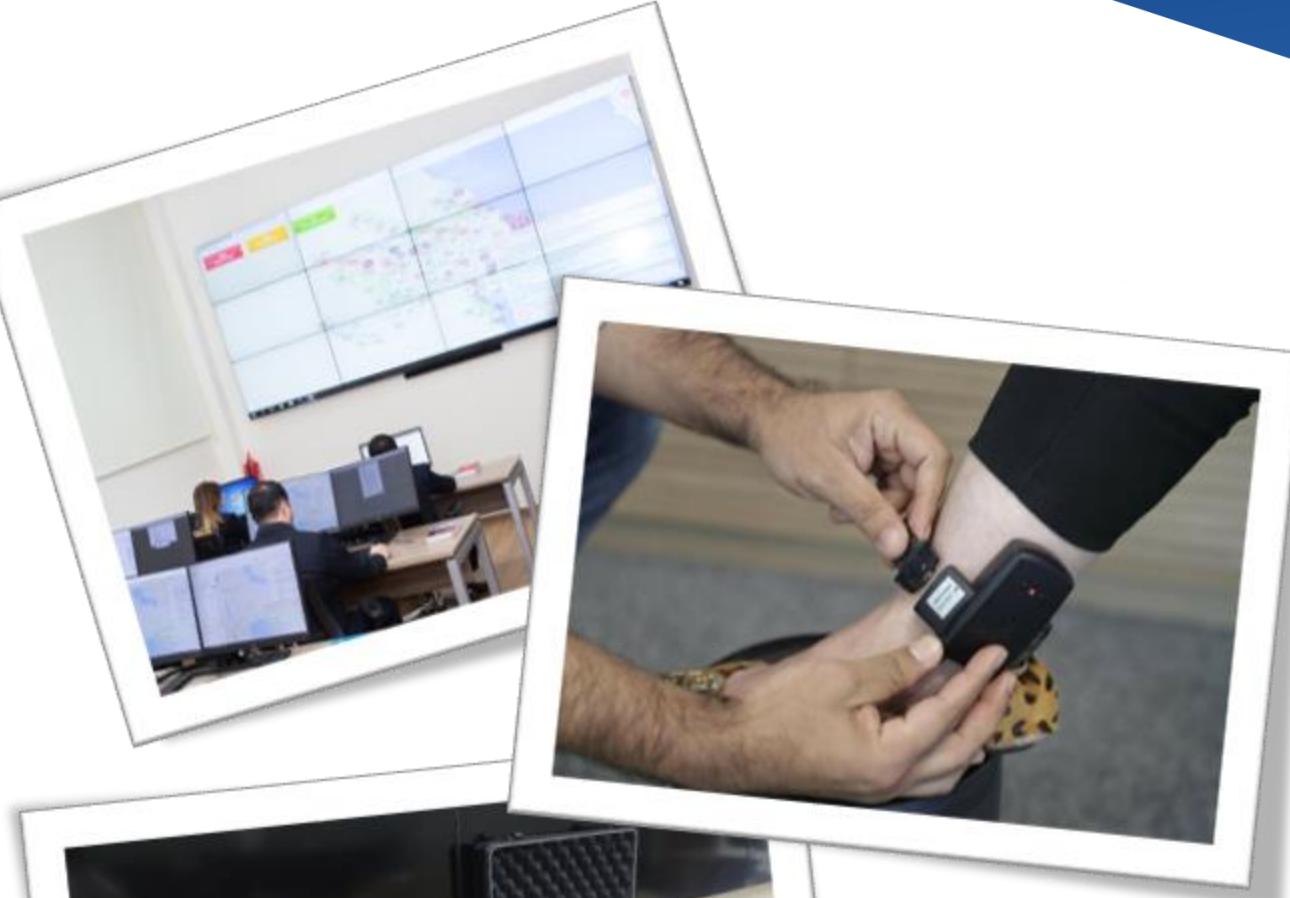
Enhanced cooperation with public institutions, meeting with parliament members, greater media visibility, and growing public trust have collectively led to a positive shift in how probation is perceived in society.

In the first half of 2024, only two probation-related reports appeared in the media—whereas in the second half, 74 pieces of content were shared across media and social media platforms, marking a significant increase in visibility.

The collage includes the following images:

- Top Left:** A screenshot of a news article from "afqazinfo.az" titled "Azerbaycan Universiteti Probasiya xidməti ile eməkdaşlıq başıyayı - Foto". It shows a group of people seated around a conference table in a formal meeting room.
- Top Middle:** A screenshot of a news article from "afqazinfo.az" dated 30.10.2024, showing two individuals standing behind a podium with flags of Azerbaijan and the Probation Institute.
- Top Right:** A screenshot of a news article from "REPORT.az" titled "Milli Məclisin deputatları Ədliyyə Nazirliyinin Probasiya xidmətində olublar". It shows a group of people seated in a conference room.
- Middle Left:** A screenshot of a news article from "afqazinfo.az" dated 30.10.2024, showing a group of people seated in a conference room.
- Middle Right:** A screenshot of a news article from "afqazinfo.az" dated 18 mart 2025, showing a group of people seated in a conference room.
- Bottom Right:** A screenshot of a news article from "afqazinfo.az" dated 18 mart 2025, showing a group of people seated in a conference room.

The Digital Monitoring Department conducts surveillance sessions for individuals serving sentences of restriction of liberty or conditionally early released, and any detected violations are referred to local offices for further investigation.



PROBASIYA XİDMƏTİ

Arzu Hümmetova

Qeydiyyata alınmış 326 Derkenor gözleyen 6179 İcraatadır 4817 Ceza Çeken 4300

İnzibati Tenbəhəd 58 Aidiyyat üzrə göndərən 0 Aidiyyat üzrə göndərilmiş 0 Probasiya Qurumunda 17842

MSV 5 Arxiv 2157 Qəbul gözleyen 0 Məlumat Axtarış Kartı 57

Bildirişlər

NS qeydiyyatı: "SMİXANOV ZAHİR ZAHİR" "Derkenor Gözleyen" statusundadır.

NS İSMİXA... Vəfa Nazırı

NS İSMİXA... Vəfa Nazırı

NS MEHRA... Ana sahifə

Bir sahifədən... Nazərat Subyektləri

Məlumat Axtarış Kartları

Aidiyyat üzrə göndərilmə

Hesabatlar

NS qeydiyyatı: "SMİXANOV ZAHİR ZAHİR" "Derkenor Gözleyen" statusundadır.

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Məlumat Axtarış Kartları

Aidiyyat üzrə göndərilmə

Hesabatlar

PROBASIYA XİDMƏTİ

Arzu Hümmetova

Şəxsi Məlumatlar

SƏBÜHİ ABASLı

ZƏYNAL OĞLU SOSEİV9

14/08/1991 İMSİ

Kişi Subay

Azərbaycan Hərbi vəzifə

Şəxsiyyəti təsdiq edən şənəd

Şəxsiyyət vəsiqəsi 15880610

22/04/2017 Sabayı

FAYLLARI

ŞƏXSIYYƏT VƏSIQƏ

BARMAQ İZLƏRİ

FAYLLARI SEÇ

FAYLLARI SEÇ

PROBASIYA XİDMƏTİ

Arzu Hümmetova

Bakı Şəhər Probasiya İdarəeti Proba Qeydiyyatda Qeydiyyat statusu İcra məmənu Azərbaycan Respublikasının vətəndaşı Vətəndaşlıq

Yaş qrupu 1 (18 - 29) Yaş qrupu 2 Gəsə cəza Cəza tipi Kişi Cinsi ENV Statusu

1/Yan/24 - 1/Yan/25

PDF XLSX

statuslar	Çərimə cəzəsi	Müşayyən vəsiqə tətbiq etmə və rehberləşdirən fəaliyyətə malik olmuş həqiqətdən məhrum etmə	İctimai işlər	İctimai işlər(İİ)	İslah işləri	Azədigəm mahdudiyyətdən məhrum etmə	Müşayyən maddələndən məhrum etmə	Ömrəncəzədən məhrum etmə	Məntəqə tipi cəzəcəməz məsələsinə həqiqətdən məhrum etmə	İşgəyrən vəzifəsinə həqiqətdən məhrum etmə	Şəhəri məhkəmetə	Cəzəcəpələr olunqan vəzifədən məhrum etmə	Cəzəcəpələr olunqan vəzifədən məhrum etmə
Qəbul gözleyən	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Qeydiyyatı olunmuş	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derkenor gözleyən	22	2	5	0	15	206	25	0	14	0	0	0	0
İzəndədər	14	1	10	0	9	140	19	0	4	0	0	0	0
Cəza çeken	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
İnzibati Tenbəhəd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aidiyyat üzrə göndərən	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aidiyyat üzrə göndərilmə	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MSV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arxiv	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cam	36	3	15	0	24	349	44	0	18	0	0	0	0

The newly established “Information System on Convicted and Detained Persons” will strengthen electronic case management—supporting digital personal files, risk assessment, statistical reporting, and the full digital management of enforcement.



Key future goals and trends for probation in Azerbaijan include:

- adopting a dedicated Law on Probation Activities,
- drafting the 2025–2030 Probation Development Concept,
- promoting alternative sanctions,
- strengthening social adaptation and rehabilitation through volunteerism,
- introducing a victim protection framework and restorative justice tools,
- optimizing electronic monitoring,
- and applying individualized approaches to sanction enforcement.



Thank you for your kind attention!