

### **Complaint No. 424/2010 (*M.Z.A. v. Sweden*)**

Complaint No. 424/2010 (*M.Z.A. v. Sweden*) concerned a national of Azerbaijan, born in 1957, who claimed that his deportation to Azerbaijan would constitute a breach by Sweden of article 3 of the Convention against Torture. The complainant claimed that he and his family had economic problems because he struggled to get a job due to his political beliefs and membership in the Azerbaijan National Party. The complainant claimed that he was an active member responsible for the party programme and recruiting new members, and that he participated in a number of political demonstrations from 1998 until 2003. During one of those demonstrations, in response to the elections of 15 October 2003, the authorities attempted to repress the protesters and the complainant claimed that he managed to escape and not get arrested only because his father-in-law worked as a prosecutor in Baku. He then went into hiding at his friends' and acquaintances' homes. His wife told him that the police had searched for him in January 2004 and that they had threatened to arrest her if they did not locate him. He left Azerbaijan and applied for asylum in Sweden in 2004. In May 2004 the Migration Board rejected his application for asylum and his subsequent appeals were rejected as well. The Committee noted the complainant's claim that there was a risk that he would be tortured or ill-treated if deported because of his past political activities, but observed that he had failed to adduce any evidence that he was wanted for his political activities in Azerbaijan and that he had not claimed that he had been detained or tortured in the past. The Committee concluded that his removal would not constitute a breach of article 3 of the Convention.