

On July 23, 2023, Dr. Ibadoghlu and his wife, Irada Bayramova, were forced out of their car near Baku, Azerbaijan, seized by masked individuals, detained, and beaten. Dr. Ibadoghlu had returned to Azerbaijan earlier in July from a visiting fellowship at the London School of Economics to care for his ailing mother. Though Ms. Bayramova was released hours later, Dr. Ibadoghlu was not released. Ms. Bayramova and her family have been denied communication with her husband and she continues to experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder from this harrowing ordeal. The “charges” that President Ilham Aliyev’s government has used to justify Dr. Ibadoghlu’s detention and imprisonment without trial—that he organized the production of counterfeit money to support a political group and, as an avowed secularist, disseminates material that supports religious extremism—are so dubious and baseless that they would qualify as satire in another context.

Dr. Ibadoghlu’s true “crime” against the Aliyev regime is his devotion to the causes of democracy, freedom and anti-corruption in Azerbaijan. He is detained today because he bravely chose to return to Azerbaijan to care for his mother despite fleeing the country in 2017 to teach abroad after his civic activism prompted threats of retaliation. As an internationally acclaimed economist, he has also served as a visiting professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University, and Rutgers University. He was a 2015 Fulbright Scholar, a 2015 Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy, a 2018 Prague Civil Society Center Fellow, and a recipient of the 2018 Civil Society Scholar Award by the Open Society Fund.

During Dr. Ibadoghlu’s seven-month detention, he has been subjected to crowded and inhumane conditions common to Azerbaijan’s jails and denied sustained access to critical medication. Dr. Ibadoghlu’s family is increasingly concerned that he has been denied the medication and medical treatment that he desperately needs to treat his chronic health conditions. He has additionally been repeatedly denied access to his legal counsel and has not received a fair trial while in custody. I join my fellow Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Embassy in Baku, U.S. academic institutions and organizations, the European Parliament, and others in the international community to express my deep concerns about Dr. Ibadoghlu’s health and demand his immediate release.

I commend Emin Bayramli, one of Dr. Ibadoghlu’s sons who lives in my district, and his entire family for their steadfastness in seeking their father’s freedom from his unjust imprisonment. I also commend my colleague Congressman CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey for adopting Dr. Ibadoghlu through the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission’s Defending Freedoms Project.

Dr. Ibadoghlu is one of far too many Azerbaijanis that the Aliyev regime has unjustly detained to suppress freedom and civil rights. The Government of Azerbaijan’s poor record of respecting human rights, civil rights and civil liberties is a moral stain that affects free people everywhere. Whether they live in Washington, D.C. or Baku, Hong Kong or Beijing, Moscow or Kyiv, everyone should have the right to determine their own destiny. Dr.

Ibadoghlu’s unjust imprisonment must end immediately.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF JOE
MADISON, “THE BLACK EAGLE”

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the other week, we lost a great American, renowned civil rights activist, and legendary radio host: Joe Madison. He passed away on January 31 at age 74. Some knew Joe as ‘the Judge’ who would hear out his callers and guests even if they had different views but cut them off if they tried to spread misinformation. Others knew him as ‘the Black Eagle’—his longtime radio nickname. I had the pleasure of knowing him as a friend and as a crucial member of the local community. Regardless of how we knew Joe, however, we all recognized him for who he was: a man of supreme integrity, character, and intellect.

The airwaves defined Joe’s life, and Joe’s life defined the airwaves. From the start of his radio career as a DJ for the campus station at Washington University in St. Louis to its end on SiriusXM’s Urban View with a daily listenership in the tens of millions, Joe captivated his listeners. They knew they could trust Joe. He made a point never to violate that trust.

Joe understood both the nuances of radio as a medium and its power to change minds and change the country. Before his radio career took off, Joe was a leading figure in the Detroit chapter of the NAACP. He was only 24 when he became executive director of the Detroit branch of the organization—the youngest person in history to hold the position. Never losing sight of his roots in advocacy, Joe used his platform on the radio to highlight the most pressing challenges of the day, especially those facing the Black community. His perspective was invaluable in an era when conservative talk radio dominated the airwaves.

Throughout his life, Joe proved to be a powerful force for change both on and off the air, always asking his famous question, ‘What are you going to do about it?’ He posed that question not only to others but to himself. In 2001, he was arrested for protesting human rights abuses in Sudan. Breaking records with a 52-hour long broadcast in 2015, Joe raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the new Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. He went on a 73-day hunger strike in 2021 to protest Republicans’ legislative blockade of the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

I saw his passionate advocacy firsthand when we worked together on the historic Emmett Till Antilynching Act. Joe and I, along with many others, were frustrated that America still lacked a law that made lynching a federal crime more than a century after the idea was first proposed. During the 116th Congress, we worked with Rep. Bobby Rush and then-Representative Karen Bass to rectify that failure. After Republicans blocked the bill’s passage in 2020, we renewed our push in the 117th Congress. At long last, President Biden signed the Emmett Till Antilynching Act into law on March

29, 2022. It wouldn’t have been possible without Joe Madison. Joe’s work on the bill and on a variety of other causes over the years drew the admiration of millions. Listeners were excited to tune in every day and guests were eager to come on Joe’s show because they knew the commentary and conversation would be just as meaningful as his principled advocacy.

Whether discussing the opportunities that the new FBI consolidated headquarters will create for Greenbelt, Democrats’ efforts to address inflation, or my longstanding work to protect voting rights, I had the pleasure of coming on Joe’s show many times over the years to talk about critical issues in Maryland’s Fifth District and beyond. Many other leaders sought out these meaningful conversations with Joe, from former President Barack Obama to Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi. He inspired each of his guests—and each of his listeners—to reflect more deeply on their principles, their politics, and their perspectives.

Mr. Speaker, Joe’s voice was defined not by its earthy baritone but by its moral clarity and commitment to truth. Like so many others across the country and around the world, I will miss hearing it crackle through the radio in the morning. Joe may be gone, but the question he posed to his listeners remains: ‘What are you going to do about it?’ Although he can no longer ask us that question, we can still answer.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my prayers to Joe’s incredible wife of 47 years, Sherry; his three daughters, Monesha Madison Lever, Shawna Collins and Michelle Borleske; his son, Jason Madison; his four half-siblings; his five grandchildren; and his great-granddaughter. I ask that all my colleagues join me in wishing them strength and in mourning Joe Madison—a titan of the airwaves. May God bless and keep Joe Madison.

HONORING EAGLE SCOUT FRANKLIN
LUCORE OF MONETT, MISSOURI

HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Franklin Lucore of Monett, Missouri, who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout just prior to his 15th birthday. Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America program, and since its inception in 1911, only 4 percent of scouts have earned this rank after a lengthy review process.

Franklin is a freshman in the International Baccalaureate Program at Central High School in Springfield and a member of BSA Troop 38 in Monett. He began his scouting career as a Cub Scout at the age of seven and since then has held numerous leadership positions with the troop, while also maintaining a 4.0 grade point average in school. He is a member of the Brotherhood of the Order of the Arrow, scouting’s National Honor Society, and a member of the Tribe of the Lone Bear, an honors program of the Ozark Trails Council’s Camp Arrowhead. He also has earned 36 merit badges, camped out more than 50 nights, hiked more than 100 miles and performed more than 36 hours of community service.

His Eagle Scout project provided improvements and outdoor furnishing to South Park, a 65-acre park owned by the city of Monett that caters especially to children and adults with disabilities.

Scouting has been teaching valuable lessons in leadership since it was established in February 1910, and achieving the rank of Eagle Scout is an important accomplishment. This young man deserves our applause for a job well done. I am proud to have him as a constituent.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 11

2:30 p.m.
Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold hearings to examine worldwide threats. SH-216

4:30 p.m.
Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. SH-219

MARCH 12

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine global security challenges and U.S. strategy. SH-216

10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine proposals to address housing affordability, availability, and other community needs. SD-538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the findings and recommendations of the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission. SD-366

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine growing U.S. manufacturing through the tax code. SD-215

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine voting rights in America. SD-G50

10:15 a.m.
Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025. SD-608

2 p.m.
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety
To hold hearings to examine youth apprenticeships, focusing on building partnerships and strengthening career pathways. SD-430

2:30 p.m.
Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine the fiscal situation of the United States. CHOB-210

3 p.m.
Committee on Rules and Administration
To hold hearings to examine administration of upcoming elections. SR-301

MARCH 13

10 a.m.
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion and multiple veterans service organizations: JWV, TAPS, NCHV, MOAA, NACVSO, NCAI, VVA, NGAUS, and FRA. 390-CHOB

MARCH 14

10 a.m.
Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Health and Human Services. SD-215

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine responding to the increasing wildfire threat. SD-342

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine U.S. strategy in the Pacific Island region. SD-419