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They are very good with violence, they are better at violence than the people [...]."</p> <p>Addressing the issue of whether to stay in the square, Gambar seemed to urge caution: "We can take our tents to the square anytime we want. We can do it next Saturday, we can do it on the 10th of December, which is the day of human rights. We don't want to make a provocation. We don't want the government to use these things against us. We don't want people to suffer."</p> <p>By contrast, Keremli embraced taking a stand in Galaba Square, asking: "If you are afraid of the batons, can you fight in the war?"</p> <p>"No!" the crowd answered.</p> <p>As supporters began to sit in the square, Keremli then asked them to stand up: "We will make a decision together! We will not accept the unfairness of the system. We will absolutely not accept it. Do you agree with me or not?"</p> <p>"Yes!" the crowd roared.</p> <p>"It's up to you to decide! The next step is yours! This is the right moment to make a move. The world is watching us! Do not be afraid of violence!" Keremli said, as the crowd made its choice to stay.</p> <p>Police moved in very quickly and with military precision. In less than five minutes, Galaba Square was a scene of chaos. Among those injured was Keremli, who was struck at least once by a police baton.</p> <p>In the meantime, Azadlig spokesman Ershad Nuriev told ISN Security Watch that the conflicting messages from Gambar and Keremli was symptomatic of a split between two factions within Azadlig.</p> <p>As the two groups debated whether Saturday was the right time for a tent city, a majority consensus emerged, he said. "There was a difference of opinion between the majority and the minority. The majority supported Ali Keremli's call to stay in the square [...] Isa Gambar did not want to stay. The police attacked and suppressed us."</p>	<p>Search</p> <input type="text"/> <input type="text" value="ISN Website"/> <input type="button" value="GO"/>



Karl Rahder, ISN

Azadlig strategist Murad Gassanly warned ISN Security Watch that "this is what happens in a police state. Any government that uses such practices against its own people is doomed".

Sakina Alieva, a 22 year-old recent graduate, and her aunt Khalida Kazumova, came to Baku from an outlying region to participate in the rally. She told ISN Security Watch that she and her aunt had been tear-gassed and beaten.

"The police attacked the people - they attacked children, they attacked women. We tried escaping," she said. "[US] President [George] Bush should speak out about what our government has done."

The local ATV and ANS television stations cited a police report saying that 18 police officers had been injured in the riots and 29 demonstrators had been arrested.

The police denied that water cannons had been used, although ISN Security Watch and others witnessed water cannons and tear gas being employed against demonstrators.

At press time, it was unclear how many people had been injured and hospitalized.

The local Turan news agency has reported that another rally is planned for next weekend.

(By Karl Rahder in Baku)

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