

## **DECISION**

### **of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan on consideration of the appeal # 16 submitted to the Central Election Commission on August 8, 2024 in the early Elections to the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan on September 1, 2024**

In his written apply addressed to the Central Election Commission (hereinafter – Central Election Commission) on August 8, 2024, Ibrahimli Gorkhmaz Abulfaz oghlu, self-nominee to deputy on Binagadi-Garadagh Con.EC # 11 in the early Elections to the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan appointed to September 1, 2024 challenged the decision # 25/74, dated August 8, 2024 of Con.EC on refusal to register his candidacy and was requested to cancel that decision and make a decision to register the candidacy.

The appeal was adopted for the implementation in comply with Articles 112 and 112-1 of the Election Code (hereinafter – Election Code) of the Republic of Azerbaijan and “Instruction on the rules for filing appeals and complaints to the Central Election Commission and Constituency Election Commissions of the Republic of Azerbaijan and their consideration”, was examined by a member of the Expert Group under CEC, provided an opinion and considered at the Commission session.

In his application, the candidate G.A.Ibrahimli challenged the signatures indicated as the basis for the refusal and asked to justify the inaccuracy of the signatures that were the basis for the refusal of registration.

The applicant was contacted in connection with the investigation, he was explained to participate in the investigation and meeting, as well as his other rights, and his participation in the Commission meeting was ensured.

Con.EC based its Decision # 25/74 dated August 8, 2024 on refusing to register self-nominee G.A. Ibrahimli, with the fact that collected 10 signature sheets with 500 voter signatures and other election documents attached to them were submitted to Con.EC, when checking the signature sheets by the working group operating under the commission, taking into account the need to check the voter applications received by Con.EC (regarding the signatures on their behalf) and the fact that there is a need to verify the signatures on the signature sheets submitted by the candidate, Binagadi-Garadagh. Con.EC # 11 applied by letter to the Central Election Commission about the separation of calligrapher experts. For this purpose, calligrapher experts were selected among the specialists of the working group operating under the Central Election Commission and from the opinions of those experts, from the protocol of the working group on checking the correctness of the signatures on the signature sheets, it can be seen that 170 signatures out of 500 signatures on the submitted 10 signature sheets were checked, 143 of those signatures in 51 groups were executed by the same person and 92 signatures were considered incorrect. Thus, 92 out of the 500 submitted signatures were considered incorrect. The fact that the submitted valid (correct) signatures are less than the required number was the basis for refusing to register the candidate.

In the investigation process, the signature sheets submitted by the candidate G.A.Ibrahimli and the election documents attached to it were taken from Con.EC upon request and submitted to the working group operating under the Central Election Commission for re-checking. The challenged 170 signatures, which are the basis for refusal of registration, were re-checked, of which 143 of those signatures in 51 groups were executed by the same person and as a result, it was determined that 92 signatures were incorrect, and the protocol dated August 9, 2024 was drawn up in this case and confirmed again by expert opinion.

According to Article 59.2 of the Election Code, the opinions of the experts involved in the working group from among the specialists of the relevant bodies are accepted as the basis for confirming the correctness of the information contained in the signature sheets.

According to Article 147.1 of the Election Code, at least 450 signatures of voters shall be collected in the territory of EC where he is nominated for the protection of the candidate.

According to the requirements of Article 60.2.4 of the Election Code, less than the required number of valid (correct) signatures submitted for the protection of the candidate is the basis for refusing to register the candidate.

It is determined by the provided information that since the number of valid (correct) signatures was not enough to register the candidacy of G.A.Ibrahimli, the legal conclusion of Con.EC on refusing to register his candidacy was in accordance with the requirements of the Election Code.

Thus, the application of the candidate G. A. Ibrahimli shall not be implemented due to groundlessness and the Decision # 25/74 dated August 8, 2024 of Con.EC on the refusal to register the candidacy shall be remained enforced without making amendments.

Basing on the above-mentioned and pursuant to Articles 19.4, 28.2, 57, 59, 60, 112, 112-1, 147 and 148.1 of Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan and items 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 of the "Instruction on the rules for filing complaints and appeals to the Central Election Commission and Constituency Election Commissions of the Republic of Azerbaijan and their consideration" the Central Election Commission **d e c i d e s**:

1. The appeal # 16, dated August 8, 2024 by Ibrahimli Gorkhmaz Abulfaz oghlu, self-nominee to deputy on Binagadi-Garadagh Con.EC # 11 in the early Elections to the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan appointed to September 1, 2024 shall not be implemented due to groundlessness and the decision # 25/74, dated August 8, 2024 of that Con.EC shall be remained enforced without making amendments.
2. The decision shall be enforced upon its publication.

CEC Chairman

Mazahir Panahov

CEC Secretary

CEC Secretary

Arifa Mukhtarova

Mikayil Rahimov