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Azerbaijan Offers Legal Support to Suspected Biryulyovo Killer

By The Moscow Times

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Azerbaijan wants to provide consular support to an Azeri accused of a killing that triggered ethnic riots in Moscow's Biryulyovo district, the country's ambassador said, while also accusing the Russian media of creating a "hysteria" around a commonplace crime.

Azeri Ambassador Polad Bülbüloğlu on Wednesday vowed to offer assistance to Biryulyovo killing suspect Orkhan Zeinalov. "He must have access to lawyers, and, if necessary, he must have access to translators," Bülbüloğlu told Dozhd TV Wednesday.

A formal note carrying Azerbaijan's request to intervene in the case was sent to the Russian Foreign Ministry on Thursday, an unidentified diplomat told Interfax.

Russia's Investigative Committee spokesman Vladimir Markin said Wednesday that Zeinalov had requested an interpreter shortly after his arrest on Tuesday, and that all of the case materials would have to be translated into Azeri.

Bülbüloğlu said that Russian media coverage of the case has spurred ethnic prejudice in Russia, thereby violating the rights of the suspect.

"This is essentially a commonplace crime, a commonplace killing, which happens every day in large cities," he said. "It's all in a day's work for the police. Look what kind of hysteria has been blown up around it."

The Investigative Committee has opened a case on suspicion of facilitating illegal migration against the general director and the chairman the company that owns a vegetable warehouse in Biryulyovo, Markin said.
Violent rioting took place at the warehouse, which is predominantly staffed by migrants, over the weekend.
Company president Magomed Tolboyev, who has not been charged, said that he hasn't seen the general director, Alia Shaba Gadzhiyev, for more than a year and has no idea where he is, Interfax reported Thursday.

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