IRADA VALIYEVA



Close Protection Officer (CPO) | Executive Protection | Diplomatic Security | Protective Driving

Baku, Azerbaijan | +994 50 385 32 32 (Mobile / WhatsApp) | irada.valiyeva.aze@gmail.com | www.linkedin.com/in/irada-valiyeva | Nationality: Azerbaijani | Date of Birth: 9 August 1983 | Height: 175 cm | Driving Licence: A1, A, B1, B, C1, C

Available for immediate relocation to the UAE, Saudi Arabia and the GCC

PROFILE SUMMARY

Highly accomplished Executive Protection and Security Professional with 20+ years of progressive experience in diplomatic security, executive protection and protective driving, including 17 years at the U.S. Embassy in Baku. Protected 3 U.S. Ambassadors, senior diplomatic officials and international delegations in line with U.S. Diplomatic Security standards, then led 40 security officers across 7 buildings, including a five-star hotel and residential towers. 1st Dan Karate black belt and former Azerbaijan national team athlete, with 8 professional security and safety courses completed in 2026, ready to deliver female close protection for principals, families and VIP delegations across the UAE, Saudi Arabia and the GCC.

CORE QUALIFICATIONS

- Demonstrated ability to protect 3 U.S. Ambassadors, senior diplomats and international delegations across 17 years at the U.S. Embassy in Baku, in line with U.S. Diplomatic Security standards.
- Proficient in armoured vehicle driving, protective driving, route planning and motorcade support, recognised with the Bodyguard Team Safe Driving Award (2016).
- Skilled in advance security planning, threat and risk assessment, venue security checks and protective intelligence review for diplomatic movements and residences.
- Demonstrated ability to lead, train and mentor 40 security officers at Hyatt Regency Baku across 7 buildings, including the hotel and residential towers, and VIP protection operations.
- Proficient in firearms handling and emergency response, supported by OT-801 training in the USA (2017), a 15-day Close Protection Training Course (2026) and 80-hour bodyguard and firearms courses (2014).

SKILLS

- Close Protection
- Executive Protection
- Diplomatic Security
- Advance Planning
- Threat Assessment
- Risk Assessment
- Protective Driving
- Armoured Vehicles
- Route Planning
- Motorcade Support
- Secure Transport
- Female Close Protection
- Crisis Management
- Emergency Response
- Team Leadership
- Staff Training
- Incident Reporting
- Firearms Safety

WORK EXPERIENCE

Physical Education Teacher **Oct 2025 – Present**

Kaspi Cambridge School | Baku, Azerbaijan

Deliver 2 to 4 hours of daily physical education to students in grades 0 to 4 within a Cambridge international curriculum.

Key Achievements

- Coach 5 grade levels, from grade 0 to grade 4, in fitness, coordination and teamwork through structured sports lessons.
- Maintain a safe, supervised sports environment for young children, drawing on safety awareness built over 20+ years in security.
- Mentor students through sport, using the discipline of a 1st Dan Karate black belt with 3 national championship titles.

IB MYP and IB PYP Physical Education Teacher **May 2024 – Oct 2025**

European Azerbaijan School | Baku, Azerbaijan

Taught physical education to IB MYP and IB PYP students for 16 months within an international school curriculum.

Key Achievements

- Completed 4 IB professional development programmes between November 2024 and February 2025, covering MYP teaching strategies and international teaching standards.
- Applied inquiry-based IB approaches to learning across 2 IB programmes, MYP and PYP, to build student fitness, discipline and teamwork.
- Organised sports activities and extracurricular programmes over 16 months that promoted fitness, leadership and an inclusive learning environment.

Security Specialist / CCTV Observer **Jul 2023 – Oct 2023**

Carlsberg Azerbaijan | Azerbaijan

Monitored CCTV systems and access-control activity across corporate facilities for 3 months to protect personnel and company assets.

Key Achievements

- Implemented corporate security procedures and asset-protection controls during a 3-month assignment in line with compliance and confidentiality standards.
- Documented security incidents and escalated concerns promptly, bringing 20 years of security experience to a corporate environment.
- Coordinated with on-site response teams across 3 months of CCTV operations to support incident prevention and rapid escalation.

Assistant Manager Security **Mar 2020 – Jun 2023**

Hyatt Regency Baku | Baku, Azerbaijan

Managed security operations for 7 buildings, including a five-star hotel and residential towers, over 3 years, protecting guests, employees, VIP visitors and company assets in line with Hyatt International standards.

Key Achievements

- Led, trained and mentored 40 security officers and team leaders across hotel, residential tower and VIP protection operations.
- Strengthened emergency preparedness and VIP protection over 3 years through risk assessments, SOP development and emergency response plans.
- Earned selection from 25 applicants, passed 35+ Hyatt training programmes and became a Service Coach, featured in the "Women at Hyatt" publication.

Ambassador's Bodyguard and Bodyguard Driver **Jul 2014 – Jan 2020**

U.S. Embassy in Baku | Baku, Azerbaijan

Provided close protection and secure armoured transportation for 3 U.S. Ambassadors, the Deputy Chief of Mission and senior diplomats over 5 years.

Key Achievements

- Protected 3 U.S. Ambassadors and their families at official events and trips outside the city, in line with U.S. Diplomatic Security standards.
- Operated armoured vehicles and prepared 2 routes, primary and alternate, for motorcade movements in coordination with the Regional Security Office.
- Won the Bodyguard Team Safe Driving Award in 2016, attended OT-801 Bodyguard Protective Security Operations in Washington in 2017 and obtained 3 written recommendation letters from senior U.S. diplomatic officials.

Security Guard **May 2003 – Jul 2014**

U.S. Embassy in Baku | Baku, Azerbaijan

Secured the U.S. Embassy compound for 11 years through access control, perimeter security and emergency response in a high-responsibility international environment.

Key Achievements

- Selected at age 19, straight after graduating in 2003, on the strength of a national karate and taekwondo competition record.
- Graduated from the Pre-Service Training Program in December 2003 with a programme award.
- Trained in explosive vehicle detection (4 days, January 2006) and emergency medical trauma care (2010), supporting screening and emergency response duties.

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree, Faculty of Martial Arts (Karate), Teacher and Coach **1999 – 2003**

Azerbaijan State Academy of Physical Education and Sport | Azerbaijan

Karate 1st Dan Black Belt **2002**

World Shotokan Karate-do Federation

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS

Close Protection and Security: Close Protection Training Course, 15 days, Artan Training Center, Tbilisi, Georgia, IBSSA / ICoCA (10 July 2026); Close Protection Training, Alison (26 June 2026); Close Protection and PSD Training Manager Course, EBSSA Online (13 June 2026); Etiquette for Security Professionals, EBSSA Online (13 June 2026); OT-801 Bodyguard Protective Security Operations, Washington, D.C., USA (13–17 November 2017); Bodyguard Initial Training Program, 80 hours (4–15 August 2014).

Firearms: Firearms Training and Qualification Shooting: AR-15/M4, AK-47, Glock 17/19, Kysucke Nove Mesto, Slovakia (13–14 June 2026); Initial Firearms Training: Glock 19, Colt SMG, 80 hours (18–29 August 2014).

Driving: Bodyguard Team Safe Driving Award (2016); Armoured Vehicle Familiarization Training (2015); Advanced Driving and Traffic Safety, Smith System (2014).

Medical and Safety: First Response Emergency Care (FREC), Bratislava, Slovakia (9–12 June 2026); Basic Fire Fighting, Fire Marshal, ORCA Offshore FZE (12 July 2026); FIA and AAF Official Licence, Fire and Rescue Marshal, Formula 1 (23 September 2026); Fire and Life Safety Training (2018).

Corporate and Teaching: Hyatt security programmes: Security Awareness and Fire Safety, Active Shooter and Armed Terrorist Incidents, Human Trafficking, Cyber Security and Privacy (2020–2022); 5 IB teaching programmes (2023–2025).

AWARDS AND HONORS

Service Coach Recognition and "Women at Hyatt" Feature **2020 – 2023**

Hyatt Regency Baku | Recognised for employee mentoring, leadership and professional contribution

Bodyguard Team Safe Driving Award **2016**

Recognition for safe protective driving

Three-time Azerbaijan Karate National Champion **2001 – 2003**

Winner, Open Karate Championship of Kazakhstan (2002); bronze medallist, European Karate Championship Team Kumite (2001) and World Taekwondo Championships (2003)

LANGUAGES AND REFERENCES

Languages: Azerbaijani (Native, C2), Russian (Native, C2), Turkish (B2), English (B1, EF SET 42/100, April 2026).

References: Written letters of recommendation from 3 senior U.S. diplomatic officials and a certificate of no criminal record are available on request.