

Appeal by Political Prisoners in Azerbaijan Regarding International Advocacy

written by briadmin

APPEAL

by Political Prisoners in Azerbaijan

The development experience of the democratic world shows that drawing on successful paths already taken makes an important contribution to solving problems. In light of this approach, as well as the international commitments Azerbaijan has undertaken, the active involvement and support of the democratic world are also necessary for our country's democratization and for ensuring human rights and freedoms. While achieving this is primarily our task, it is also their responsibility.

International advocacy therefore plays an important role in securing international support and building cooperation and partnerships with the world's democratic institutions. Gratefully acknowledging the positive work previously carried out in this area, we call on all parties involved to take the following into account so that future efforts can be more productive:

I. We consider it more beneficial for the parties involved in advocacy to make Azerbaijan's democratization and the state of human rights and freedoms in the country priorities on their main agendas together, as mutually reinforcing issues, rather than addressing them separately.

II. We believe that, if the parties involved in international advocacy focused on these key issues are guided in their work by the following expectations, they will make a greater

contribution to achieving successful results:

1. Expectations of those carrying out advocacy:

- Avoid focusing activities on a single individual or a limited group.
- Carry out their activities publicly.
- Provide program reports on the work carried out.
- Aim for activities to be consistent, sustained, and conducted as campaigns.
- Make every effort to coordinate activities with other groups and individuals.
- Take a conciliatory approach to the overall coordination of advocacy activities.

2. Expectations of those supporting advocacy:

- Prioritize advocacy that, through the projects and proposals supported, addresses all clearly and precisely identified political “cases”, rather than focusing on a particular individual or group.
- Encourage individuals and groups engaged in advocacy to coordinate their activities and seek common ground.
- Avoid duplication and misuse by sharing information about proposals and projects with international partners.
- Prioritize conducting advocacy publicly, including carrying out these activities consistently and as campaigns.

3. Expectations of the parties targeted by advocacy (foreign governments, parliaments, international organizations):

- Publicly call on the Azerbaijani government to fulfill its commitments concerning democratization, human rights, the rule of law, transparency, and accountability.
- Call for an end to politically motivated persecution, the release of those detained, and legal and political measures against those responsible for arbitrary actions.
- Support the priority consideration of cases before the European Court of Human Rights, including ensuring that the Council of Europe's Cabinet of Ministers takes effective steps to implement the Court's judgments.
- Take effective remedial measures for people whose health is deteriorating or who have health problems.
- Begin imposing sanctions on officials involved in political persecution, at least on the officials involved in existing "cases".

The list has been prepared on the basis of the views of the political prisoners we have been able to contact and remains open to additional signatures.

Signatures:

Afiaddin Mammadov – Labor Union

Akif Gurbanov – Toplum TV

Agil Humbatov – Popular Front Party

Anar Abdulla – Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center

Aynur Elgunash – Meydan TV

Aysel Umudova – Meydan TV

Aytaj Tapdig (Ahmadova) – Meydan TV

Bahrüz Samadov – Peace activist

Elnara Gasimova – AbzasMedia

Elnur Hasanov – Popular Front Party

Elxan Aliyev – Popular Front Party

Alasgar Mammadli – Toplum TV

Ali Zeynal – Toplum TV

Alikhan Rajabli – Popular Front Party

Fatima Movlamlı – Meydan TV

Farid Ismayilov – Toplum TV

Hafiz Babali – AbzasMedia

Khayala Aghayeva – Meydan TV

Ilkin Amrahov – Toplum TV

Imran Aliyev – Meclis.info

Kanan Zeynalov – Popular Front Party

Mehman Aliyev – Popular Front Party

Mammad Ibragim – Popular Front Party

Mammad Mammadzade – Election Monitoring Alliance

Mushfig Jabbar – Toplum TV

Mutallim Orujov – Popular Front Party

Natig Javadlı – Meydan TV

Nargiz Absalamova – AbzasMedia

Niyamaddin Ahmadov – Popular Front Party

Novruz Taghiyev – Popular Front Party

Nurlan Libre – Meydan TV

Punhan Karimov – Popular Front Party

Rahil Guliyev – Popular Front Party

Ramil Babayev – Toplum TV

Ramil Guliyev – Popular Front Party

Ramin Deko (Jabrayilzade) – Meydan TV

Razi Alışov – Popular Front Party

Ruslan Izzatli – Toplum TV

Rufat Safarov – Human Rights Defender

Sahib Mammadzade – Popular Front Party

Sevinj Vagifqızı – AbzasMedia

Shahin Hajiyev – Popular Front Party

Shamshad Agha – Meydan TV

Ulvi Hasanli – Abzas Media

Ulviyya Ali – Voice of America

Vuqar Gadirov – Popular Front Party