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The Problem of Southern Azerbaijan

Say (Ref.): 429/ 2010
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The Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva,
Please circulate this Communication to:

- The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
- Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers
- Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
- The Independent Expert on Minority Issues
- Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences
- the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders

CC Mr. Dyke and Mrs. Harrison, Amnesty International, London
Also: Human Rights Watch and Human Rights Server



**FREE AZERBAIJANI
PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE
IN IRAN**

Dear sir/madam

COLLECTIVE COMMUNICATION ON CHAINED DETENTION

Please find enclosed Collective Communication on a “chain” of Southern Azerbaijani prisoners of conscience, who are deprived of their liberty, subjected to torture, and detained indefinitely by the Iranian authorities. This is also an update to our Briefing Note Ref: 427/2010 on 4 June 2010. Table 1 provides you 17 names, and they are listed in the order of arbitrary days of detentions that they have been subjected to, with respect to the reference date of 30 August 2010.

We draw your attention to the common features regarding their cases:

- They were all kidnapped but in various cities of Southern Azerbaijan and after being kidnapped their family members had no clue on their whereabouts;
- They were transferred into Tebriz prison even though some of them are not from Tebriz;
- The houses of every one of them were searched and their computers and other personal belongings were confiscated;
- Every individual one of them has been subjected to physical and mental torture;
- Everyone of them has been deprived of the right to visit by their family members;
- Everyone one has been deprived of the right of defence by a lawyer;
- Everyone of them are kept in a solitary confinement;
- None of them has been indicted;
- We are confident that all of them are in indefinite detention (except one of them which was release on bail) but there is no official communiqué on any of them; and
- We understand that the Iranian authorities are highly focused to beat a confession out of them to their dictated terms.

This case is therefore unusual in many ways. A superficial explanation seems to be that the Iranian authorities, disillusioned with many attempts to obtain false confessions by torturing Southern Azerbaijani prisoners of conscience, are once again allured with forcing false confessions out of these prisoners of conscience. After all, they have been allured for a long time to attribute the activists of Southern



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Azerbaijan to factors other than their stiff defence of human and national rights. These activists are so careful that they even do not break the archaic laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We assure you that if there was a shred of doubt in the integrity of these seventeen individuals or if they had broken any law, even if it was trivial, the Iranian authority would have finished them off long time ago.

We have now put a collective case for these 17 prisoners of conscience and victims of the arbitrary treatments by the Iranian authority. These activists are highly polished individuals and their wisdom is asset to Southern Azerbaijan and pillars to humanity. Even though we have not prepared an individual case for each and every one of them, this is the faults of Iranian authorities, who create a massive barrier of disinformation.

We appeal to your kind attention for this collective case to use your mandates and campaign for these victims by demanding from the Iranian authorities their immediate and unconditional releases. We also thank you for your recent warning to the Iranian authorities on racism and hope you will make a strong representation to the Iranian authorities in upholding the human and national rights of these seventeen prisoners of conscience, else they will suffer arbitrary prison terms. Thank you in advance for your care.

Yours faithfully,

Boyuk Resuloglu

The Committee for the Defence of the Rights of World Azerbaijanis



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Table 1 Chain of Southern Azerbaijani Prisoners of Conscience Arbitrarily Detained by Iranian Authorities

No	Days in detention	Name-surname	Where Kidnapped	Where detained	Further details
1	124	Ayet (Yurush) Mehrelibeyli ¹ (آیت مهر علی بیگلر)	Sofiyan	All are kept in Tebriz prison	Senior engineer
2	115	Aydin Khajei (آیدین خواجهای)	Tebriz		Engineer, reading law
3	114	Behbud Qulizade (بهبود قلیزاده)	Qoshachay (from Khoy)		
4	112	Behmen Nesiri zade (بهمن نصیرزاده)	Maki (Maku)		
5	112	Dr Elirza Ebdullahi (علیرضا عبد الهی)	Urmu		Doctor
6	110	Shehram Radmehr (شهرام رادمهر)	Tebriz		Engineer
7	110	Dr Letif Heseni (لطیف حسنی)	Kerej		Doctor
8	109	Ekber Azad ² (اکبر آزاد)	Tehran		Journalist & writer
9	109	Mrs.Həmidə (Pınar) Fereczade (حمیده فرج زاده)	Tebriz		
10	95	Heyder Kerimi (Yashar) (حیدر کریمی)	Tebriz		
11	95	Mahmud Fəzli (محمود فضللی)	Tebriz		An engineer
12	89	Neim Ehmedi (نعیم احمدی)	Tebriz		
13	89	Ibrahim Rəshidi ³	Tebriz		Engineer
14	86	Yunis Suleymani (یونس سلیمانی)	Erdebil		
15	83	Miss Zəhra (Sona) Fereczade ¹ (زهرا فرج زاده)	Urmu		Human right defender
16	81	Shukrulla Qehremani Ferd (شکرالله قهرمانی فرد)	Keleyber		
17	70	Hesen Rehimi Bayat (حسن رحیمی بیات)	Tehran (lives in Kerej)		An engineer, human right defender
		Husen Nesiri ⁴ (حسین نصیری)		Eco-campaigner	
<p>Note 1: Victim 1 and 15 are couples and have a three year old child deprived of the love of father and mother but in custody of the grandfather, who was a veteran of Iran and Iraq war fought there for seven years. He is now deprived of even visiting his two daughters who are prisoners of conscience.</p>					
<p>Note 2: Mr Azad is a veteran of the Southern Azerbaijani national movement and a prisoner of conscience in a number of times, during which Amnesty International also campaigned to secure his liberty. He is a scholarly journalist, a poet and a member of the French Pen Society. He is the father of 3 children.</p>					
<p>Note 3: He has been released on bail but experience shows that these temporary releases are the beginning of another process and therefore we did not remove his name from your possible campaign.</p>					
<p>Note 4: This prisoner of conscience was detained in relation to his eco campaign for saving Lake Urmu, see our report Ref: 526/2010 on 15 May 2010. He is still in prison.</p>					