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	Say (No.) : 369/ 2006 Tarix (Date): 24 August 2006
Mrs. Harrison, Amnesty International, London  CC. The Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva  Please circulate this letter among the following working groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Special Rapporteur on Independence of Judges and Lawyers</li><li>• Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (also for Fair Trials)</li><li>• Independent Expert on Minority Issues</li></ul>	No photo available

Dear Mrs. Harrison

**Re ARBITRARY SENTENCE AGAINST A SOUTHERN AZERBAIJANI TEENAGER  
– The Case of Mr. Jefer Qarachal**

Attached is the translation of an excerpt of a news item by UrmuNews, which we received on Monday 21 August 2006 describing the sentence passed against a teenager of 18 years old from Sulduz, Southern Azerbaijan. The pretext for the sentence was taking part in the mass protests, which swept through Southern Azerbaijan in May 2006. This news item has now been confirmed by ASMEK today on 23 August 2006.

The peculiar aspects of this sentence include:

- It has not been released officially
- The victim is a teenager
- The victim is not the only one as apparently 14 other victims share a similar fate
- There seems to be an all round violation of the judiciary procedures

This teenager victim is not the only one as we know for sure that Mr. Hesen Balazade is also another 18 years old and detained for taking part in the same mass protest in Erdebil and currently held in Erdebil Prison without any charge.

We hope that you would be considering a campaign to support these teenagers, in particular and thank you for safeguarding human rights of Southern Azerbaijanis in general.

Yours sincerely,

Boyuk Resuloglu

For and on behalf of  
The Committee for the Defence of the Rights of World Azerbaijanis



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## The Translations an Excerpt from UrmuNews

Monday, 21 August 2006

### Three years jail sentence for a teenager of Sulduz

UrmuNews (21 August 2006): Jefer Qarachal, an 18 years old boy from the city of Sulduz has suffered an unexpected sentence of definitive three years of imprisonment. He was in detention since the very early days of the mass protests which broke out on 22 May 2006. This sentence was issued a week ago but was not disclosed until now. Besides this sentence 14 other detainees have been sentenced but without disclosing any of the details. These detainees were also arrested at the same time undergoing the same fate. Also, besides this inexplicable jail sentence, the sentence includes a fine in cash. It is said that the amount of this fine is 320,000,000 Riyal (Translator's Note: a typical secondary teacher's annual salary is about 15,000,000 Riyal and therefore the fine is equivalent approximately to the annual salary of 20 teachers).

### Excerpts of Source document by UrmuNews

دوشنبه سی ام مرداد ۱۳۸۵  
صدور حکم سه سال زندان  
برای یک جوان هجده ساله اهل سولدوز

اورمونیوز (۳۰ مرداد ۱۳۸۵): جعفر قره چال، جوان هجده ساله اهل شهرستان سولدوز (نقده) که از زمان اعتراضات روزهای ابتدایی خرداد ماه در این شهر در بازداشت به سر می برد، با حکم غیر منتظره سه سال حبس قطعی مواجه گشته است. این حکم هفته گذشته صادر شده اما هنوز در محافل عمومی اعلام نشده است. در کنار این حکم برای چهارده نفر دیگر از بازداشت شدگان حوادث خرداد ماه این شهرستان نیز احکامی صادر گشته اما هنوز از آن احکام اطلاعاتی در دست نمی باشد. هم چنین علاوه بر مجازات زندان برای این جوان اهل سولدوز (نقده) مقداری جزای نقدی نیز در نظر گرفته شده است. گفته میشود میزان این جزای نقدی سی و دو میلیون تومان می باشد.