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	Say (No.): 406/2006 Tarix (Date): 1 November 2006
The Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva, Please circulate this letter to Special Rapporteur on Independence of Judges and Lawyers CC Mrs. Harrison, Amnesty International, London	No photo is available

Dear sir/madam,

Re THE RESIDUAL PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE RELATED TO THE 2006 MASS PROTESTS

We are aiming to lodge a series of complaints under the category of the Residuals Prisoners of Conscience Related to the May 2006 Prisoners of Conscience. This is a new Complaint in this category and we wish to lodge it for safeguarding the human rights of Mr. Semed Peyvend SERDERUDI, a Southern Azerbaijani prisoner of conscience, imprisoned by authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The particulars of the Complaint are attached in the reformatted Complaint form but we would like to highlight a number of points.

There is no published information on Mr. Serderudi, other than one of our previous letters mentioning an individual called Semed Peyvendi son of Rza (accusations unknown; sentence: unknown), see our letter, Ref:381/2006 on 17 September 2006. Our sources were aware of this case but the information was not regarded as reliable. The information issued here is deemed reliable. We believe there are others similar to this case and we endeavour to lodge complaints on their behalf as more reliable information becomes available.

To the best of our knowledge, Mr. Serderudi has been deprived of his right to access for a lawyer of his choice and his trials were arranged in closed sessions, evidently to arrive at a premeditated sentence. We would request you to compare this case with all the other similar Complaints we lodged and hope that you are now able to build a strong case against the Islamic Republic of Iran towards their arbitrary approach to justice and flagrant violations of human rights.

We believe you are the only authority with the mandate that can defend the Southern Azerbaijani prisoners of conscience in general and Mr. Serderudi, in particular. This prisoner of conscience has only exercised his human rights. We hope that you will defend his human rights as you do so for anyone anywhere in the world. We thank you in advance for your care.

Yours faithfully,

Boyuk Resuloglu



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The Committee for the Defence of the Rights of World Azerbaijanis

The Particulars of Mr. Semed Peyvend SERDERUDI

I. IDENTITY	
1. Family name: Father's name	Semed Rezzaq
2. First name:	Peyvend SERDERUDI
3. Sex: (M/F) Marital status	Male Married
4. Birth date:	1 January 1977
5. Nationality/ Nationalities	Southern Azerbaijani; Iranian citizen
6. (a) Identity document:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not available
(b) Issued by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not known but it is normally issued by the Registry Office of Tebriz
(c) On (date):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not available
7. Profession / activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Builder• Dance Teacher (teaching Azerbaijani dances)
8. Place of usual residence	Serderi (Persianised as Serderud), 10 km west of Tebriz
II. Arrest	
1. Date of arrest:	8 July 2006
2. Place of arrest:	Tebriz, after a telephone call
3. Forces who carried out the arrest or are believed to have carried it out:	Agents of the Ministry of Information
4. Did they show a warrant or other decision by a public authority?	No
5. Authority who issued the warrant or decision:	Arrested without warrant
6. Relevant legislation applied (if known):	Arbitrary



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III. DETENTION	
1. Date of detention	13 July 2006
2. Duration of detention	Indefinite, as the Judge, Mr.Hebibi prevented his release under bail
3. Forces holding the detainee under custody	There is no direct information but this is normally the Ministry of Information who would bully any other organisation to dictate their terms
4. Places of detention	No information on the place of initial interrogations as this is normally not disclosed but after the interrogation he was transferred to Tebriz Prison on 13 July 2006
5. Authorities that ordered the detention	Ministry of Information
6. Reasons for the detention imputed by the authorities	The authorities normally do not care to give reasons but this is related to arbitrary detention of the Southern Azerbaijani activists particularly after the May 2006 mass protests.
7.Relevant legislation applied	Not disclosed in this case
8. Sentence	TRIAL No 1: The Judge was Mr. Khelil Ilahi of Branch 120, of Penal Court The Charges were: disturbing the public peace The Sentences were: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four months of imprisonment• 30 Lashes TRIAL NO 2: The Judge was Mr. Ali Akberi The Charges were: propaganda against the system The Sentences were: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Six months of imprisonment Appeal Courts Upheld both sentences



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IV. Describe the circumstances of the arrest and/or the detention and indicate precise reasons why you consider the arrest or detention to be arbitrary

Mr. Serederudi was arrested in connection of the May 2006 Mass Protests and Amnesty International is active in defending human rights of the activists who took part in this protests but persecuted by the Iranian authorities through many urgent actions and presents the background to these events in the following terms (with a minor refinements):

The demonstrations began following the publication of a cartoon in the daily state-owned newspaper Iran on 12 May which offended many in the Azerbaijani Turkic community. The newspaper was suspended on 23 May and the editor in chief and the cartoonist arrested.

Azerbaijani Turkish students at universities in cities such as Tehran and Tebriz were the initial demonstrators. However, protests spread throughout cities such as Tebriz, Urmu, Erdebil, Maragha and Zenjan in north-west Iran, where the population is predominantly Azerbaijani Turkic.

Demonstrations have grown dramatically, and in Tebriz alone around 300,000 to 500,000 people are said to have taken part in protests on 22 May. Hundreds of demonstrators are said to have been arrested and on 24 May, the Commander for Law Enforcement Force confirmed that around 60 people had been detained at each of the disturbances.

Demonstrators were reportedly beaten by members of the Special Forces and the plain clothes militia called the Basij. Scores were injured, and some or all of those injured are reportedly detained in a military hospital where they are not permitted visits from family members. It has been alleged that some demonstrators were killed after Special Forces opened fire in the city of Tebriz. However, this has been denied by the authorities.

V. Indicate internal steps, including domestic remedies, taken especially with the legal and administrative authorities, particularly for the purpose of establishing the detention and, as appropriate, their results or the reasons why such steps or remedies were ineffective or why they were not taken

- Please bear in mind that the authorities normally put every effort to cover their track and hardly there is any officially published information.
- Normally there is no indictment, no access to lawyer or even to family
- Trails are conducted in closed sessions
- Sometimes, there is no news on the missing person for weeks and months until a fellow prisoner is released
- This case is a good example of that, as the activists recently found out about Mr. Serederudi, although our sources were aware of his detention but the information was not regarded as reliable.

VI.

Full name

Mr. Boyuk Resulogly

On behalf of:

The Committee for the Defence of the Rights of World Azerbaijanis

Address:

Ayna, Sherifzade 1, Baki, Azerbaijan; Tel/Fax +47-99399225;

Date: 1 November 2006

Signature: