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Mrs. Harrison, Amnesty International, London

CC The Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva

Please circulate this letter to the Working Group on Arbitrary
Detention



Ekber Azad

Dear Mrs. Harrison,

**Re LATEST SITUATION AT THE WAKE OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1945-46
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OF SOUTHERN AZERBAIJANIS**

We are pleased to let you know that, Mr. Ekber Azad, a journalist and a leader of the national movement of Southern Azerbaijan, was released on 9 December 2006 from Eher Prison. He has expressed his thanks to all wishing him well and promoting human rights. Of the four Southern Azerbaijani prisoner of conscience jailed in Eher, Mr. Yurush Elibeyli was also released on 28 November 2006 after 4 months of imprisonment. The other two still remaining in prison are Mr. Elchin Hatemi and Resul Qehremani.

However, at the wake of the anniversary of the 1945-46 national government of Southern Azerbaijan, our sources have confirmed that Mr. Hesen Erk, the prominent journalist, writer and thinker, was arrested in Tebriz by agents of the Ministry of Intelligence but fortunately he was released later. In recent weeks, Mohusn E'tishami was also arrested on 29 November 2006 and taken to an undisclosed location (Source: <http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-276.aspx>). The suppression of the various gatherings and conferences have also been reported including the one the in the University of Muheqqiq Erdebili, Erdebil. This was arranged three months ago but cancelled today, as a result of which Prof. Duzgun (Sediq) had to cancel his flight to Erdebil today a few hours before his departure.

We hope you are alerted towards monitoring the situation to campaign for the human rights of Southern Azerbaijanis.

Yours sincerely,

Boyuk Resuloglu

The Committee for the Defence of the Rights of World Azerbaijanis