



Ünvan: Azərbaycan, Bakı, Şərifzadə 1, Ayna; Tel/Faks +47-99399225;
Address: Ayna, Sherifzade 1, Baki, Azerbaijan; Tel/Fax +47-99399225;

www.dunazhak.net
email: info@dunazhak.net

<i>The Problem of Southern Azerbaijan</i>	
<p>The Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please circulate this to Dr. Ahmed Shaheed,• The Special Rapporteur on the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; this is also relevant to:• Working Group on arbitrary detention (also for Fair Trials);• Special Rapporteur on the promotion & protection of the right to freedom of opinion & expression• Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, intolerance• The Independent Expert on Minority Issues• Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges; <p>Also to: Mr. Boehner, Mr. Cantor and Mrs. Pelosi of the US House of Representatives Mr Dyke and Mrs. Harrison, Amnesty International, London Human Rights Watch and Human Rights Server, UN Habitat</p>	<p>Say (Ref.): 549/ 2011 İlaygün (Date): 3 Oct 2011</p>  <p>Mr. Abbas Leysanli</p>

Dear sir/madam,

COMMUNICATION 1: MR LEYSANLI: “I STRESS THAT SHOULD SOMETHING HAPPEN TO ME, THE CAUSE SHALL NOT BE MY HUNGER STRIKE”

This is Communication 1 to defend human rights of Mr. Abbas Leysanli (or Lisani, or Lesani), a veteran of the national movement of Southern Azerbaijan and one of the founders of its activism based on the Universal Human Rights Declaration. The Iranian authorities arbitrarily detained him on 8 September 2011 together with at least 12 other Southern Azerbaijani prisoners of conscience. Even prior to his arrest and subsequent detention, he was under constant harassment, as pointed out by Briefing Note 2 (Ref: 546/ 2011, on 5 Sep 2011). Table 1 presents the form for the defence of the individuals detained arbitrarily with the details of Mr. Leysanli. We also learned on 1 October 2011 that Mr. Leysanli has been taken from a detention facility in Erdebil to a detention facility in Tehran, some 500 Km away from his family in Erdebil. We are therefore very concerned with his wellbeing and safety and the risk of torture against him.

As per information given in Table 1, this detention is arbitrary for the following reason:

- Mr. Leysanli has not broken any Iranian or international law and in addition, all Southern Azerbaijani activists, including Mr. Leysanli, exercise a high standard of compliance with any law even if the law is nonsense. This is because they utterly disappoint the Iranian authorities even though these authorities are habitual violators of their own laws.
- The Iranian authorities are infested with collusion and therefore before detaining any Southern Azerbaijani activist, no legal basis is observed due to the collusion between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Information.

This illegal act of the Iranian authorities is evident when considering the background to his detention. There is an ongoing wave of protests to the environmental catastrophe in Southern Azerbaijan instigated by the Iranian authorities, please refer to Table 1, Part IV for the specific details. If up to recent times, Southern Azerbaijanis were campaigning for their national rights, the scope has now expanded and covers their protests against the deliberate policies of the Iranian authorities to dry up Lake Urmu. The Iranian authorities are not minded with correcting their deliberate policies but their mindset is described, as follows:

- Iranian authorities are trigger happy and resort to repression against Southern Azerbaijanis protests;
- Southern Azerbaijan is under the siege by militarisation of Southern Azerbaijani cities by special detached forces of the central government;



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- They round up protesters at will and subject them to violence and torture, depriving them from all the rights – literally, more than 500 individuals have been detained and gagged by heavy bails
- They victimise protesters by rubber bullets – 100s have been wounded and at least 3 killed
- They deploy extra-judiciary killings – this is a targeted act deployed by the Iranian authorities from time to time. Mr. Ibrahim Jeferzade, a high profile activist, his wife Mrs. Mina Kehrebayi and their daughter Ayla on 26 September 2011, were apparently killed by a car accident but this is not crystal clear yet and the incident is regarded with suspicion. During the funeral, more than 100 participants were rounded up in Khoy and the procession was therefore carried out under highly intense atmosphere (see the films: <http://www.oyrenci.com/news.php?id=7022>).

The facts are that despite the legitimacy of the ongoing protests, Mr. Leysanli has neither issued any single statement regarding the ongoing protests nor has been seen to take part in any of the ongoing protests. After all, today there are 30 million Abbas Leysanli's in Southern Azerbaijan who are willing to defend the environment of Southern Azerbaijan with or without the presence of Mr. Leysanli. In fact, Erdebil, the home city of Mr. Leysanli, orchestrated a magnificent protest on September the 14th, under heavily militarised atmosphere, while Mr. Leysanli was illegally under detention.

We would like to explain why Mr. Leysanli was possibly detained and then taken to Tehran:

- The Iranian authorities were naive to think that by stopping Mr. Leysanli the planned protests in Erdebil would not materialise. We confirm that, the protests took place for short periods despite the brute forces of Iranian might being in its full swing.
- The Iranian authorities have taken Mr. Leysanli to an undisclosed detention facility in Tehran to inflict maximum suffering on his family as a revenge for his past activism. This is really, unworthy of any authority but this is a hard reality of the Iranian authority, who has no intension of a wise governance but be engaged in infantile revenges against the Turkic nation of Southern Azerbaijan.
- However, we are concerned with the message that Mr. Leysanli passed to his wife on 26 September 2011 during his second two minute telephone call (the information on his hunger was given in the first telephone call), stating that “I stress that should something happen to me, the cause shall not be my hunger strike.” We fear that something more cynical is brewed up in the medieval mind of the Iranian authorities. We dare not to spell it out.

Today Southern Azerbaijan is under the onslaught of a racist sentiment by the Iranian authorities. The last minute information is that there has been a nuclear explosion in Erdebil, the home city of Mr. Leysanli, in a secret Uranium Enrichment Plant. We simply do not know what is in the stock of the Iranian authorities for the Turkic nation of Southern Azerbaijan: numerous pollution hotspots, the catastrophe of Lake Urmu, arbitrary treatments of the Azerbaijani Turks, and now a possible nuclear explosion in Erdebil. The defence of this nation is only in the hands of your mandates and only your defence will curb the arbitrary and racist acts of the Iranian authorities against the Turkic nation of Southern Azerbaijan and restore human rights of Mr Leysanli. We 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 3: The Complaint Form for the Particulars of Mr. Abbas Leysanli

Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
c/o. Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
United Nations Office at Geneva
CH-1211, Geneva 10
Switzerland

I. IDENTITY

1. Family name:	Leysanli (also known as Lesani or Lisani); in Farsi: لسانی
2. First name: Father's name:	Abbas, in Farsi: عباس Esed
3. Sex: (M/F) Marital status	Male Married
4. Birth of date (age):	23 August 1967
5. Nationality	Southern Azerbaijani; a citizen of the Islamic Republic of Iran
6. (a) Identity document: (b) Issued by: (c) On (date):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not available • Not known but it is normally issued by the Registry Office of Erdebil • Not available
7. Profession / activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self Employed • Poet and writer
8. Place of usual residence	Erdebil (Ardabil), Khiyaban-e-Mojez, Shehid Yusuf Qaffari Street , Number 15P

II. Arrest

1. Date of arrest:	The victim was arrested on 8 (or 9) September 2011, in the morning
2. Place of arrest:	Based on our own sources, the arrest took place in the victim's house (although some report mention his work place), during which the agents searched his house and confiscated his PC, CDs and personal belongings.
3. Forces who carried out the arrest or are believed to have carried it out:	The perpetrators are believed to be security agents operating for the Ministry of Information of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
4. Did they show a warrant or other decision by a public authority?	It is highly unusual for the security agents to show any warrant and our sources indicate that there was no such a warrant for the arrest.
5. Authority who issued the warrant or decision:	The Iranian authorities fail to fulfill their duties as an authority to issue such information but the arrest had the hallmark of the Ministry of Information.
6. Relevant legislation applied (if known):	Our reports including (http://urmuiscileri1.blogspot.com/2011/09/blog-post_2455.html) indicate that the act of arrest was arbitrary and not based on any legislation.



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III. DETENTION

1. Date of detention	The Iranian authorities arrested Mr Leysanli, seemingly with the intension of detention, because he was immediately detained without any indictment or charges.
2. Duration of detention	Seemingly this is indefinite
3. Forces holding the detainee under custody	Ministry of Information
4. Places of detention	Facilities attached to the Ministry of Information in Erdebil for approximately 20 days and then suddenly he was transferred to a detention facility in Tehran either on 30 September or 1 October.
5. Authorities that ordered the detention	No formal statement was ever issued
6. Reasons for the detention imputed by the authorities	There are no imputed charges but we will describe the circumstances in Part IV, below, which reflects on the reason for this arbitrary act.
7. Relevant legislation applied	We believe the act of arrest was arbitrary and was not based on any legislation.
8. Sentence	There is no sentence.

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. Leysanli was arrested in Erdebil on 8 September 2011. By nationality, he is a Southern Azerbaijani, which is ruled by the Islamic Republic of Iran and therefore he is a citizen of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The background is that currently Southern Azerbaijan is at the brink of an environmental catastrophe, which is demonstrably the outcome of deliberate policies of the Iranian government to dry up Lake Urmu by damming all the rivers and their tributaries falling into the lake (some 88 dams have been constructed). The protests are already in full steam and rather than seeking an international consultancy services to clear up their environmental blunders in Southern Azerbaijan, the Iranian government is enforcing their damming program and suppressing any protests. Southern Azerbaijanis are alarmed by this deliberate acts and keep orchestrating protests, e.g. the protests on:

- (i) August the 27th in Urmu and Tebriz,
- (ii) September the 3rd in Urmu and Tebriz, (iii) September the 10th in Urmu, Tebriz, Qoshachay,
- (iii) September the 14th in Erdebil
- (iv) September the 20th in Zengan and
- (v) An all out call for protests on 1 October 2011 but as the streets were swamped by military forces, Southern Azerbaijani protesters invented the silent protest by showing heavy presence in the streets but with chanting any slogan.

Now Southern Azerbaijan is under the atmosphere of a heightened tension.

The Iranian authorities kept harassing Mr. Leysanli for days and our Briefing Note (Ref: 546/2011 on 5 Sept 2011) made a mention of this. However, he was arrested Mr. Leysanli on September the 8th, probably as a show of strength or as a measure to suppress the protests planned on September the 12th. However, despite the heavily militarised situation in Erdebil, Southern Azerbaijani activists managed to



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orchestrate their protests, although literally, 100s were arrested and many detained. This proves that the call for protests and carrying it out, was not of the making of Mr. Leysanli, but of the spontaneous necessity felt by the nation of Southern Azerbaijan (which the Iranian government called them the 30 million nation, as a tribe).

As a protest to this arbitrary act of the Iranian authorities, Mr. Leysanli resorted to a hunger strike, when he was detained just after being arrested as the only option remained for him to defend his human rights. He had confirmed this information to his wife on a telephone call on 16 September 2011, lasting for 2 minutes. According to his wife, Mr. Leysanli's voice was then reflecting his weakened physical conditions. He had stopped this hunger strike on 21 September 2011, as there was a national appeal for this and when he suspected that Iranian authorities were planning to eliminate him by some sort of drug in his liquid intake. Mr. Leysanli, had implied this when he was permitted to call his wife on 26 September 2011 at 11 a.m. for two minutes by stating that "I stress that should something happen to me, the cause shall not be my hunger strike."

He is being kept in detention first in Erdebil and now in Tehran for no reason.

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

The fundamental problem is that the Iranian authorities are obstinate and act arbitrarily. His family has exhausted every possible action but in vain.

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; Email: Boyuk_Resuloglu@hotmail.com

Date: 3 October 2011

Signature: As per email