




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](mailto:info@dunazhak.net)

<i>The Problem of Southern Azerbaijan</i>	
<p>The Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva; Please circulate this</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Ahmed Shaheed,</li><li>• Working Group on arbitrary detention (also for Fair Trials);</li><li>• Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences</li><li>• The Special Rapporteur on the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; this is also relevant to:</li><li>• Special Rapporteur on the promotion &amp; protection of the right to freedom of opinion &amp; expression</li><li>• Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, intolerance</li><li>• The Independent Expert on Minority Issues</li><li>• Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges;</li></ul> <p>Also to: Mr Dyke and Mrs. Harrison, Amnesty International, London Human Rights Watch and Human Rights Server</p>	<p>Say (Ref.): 550/ 2011 İlaygün (Date): 11 Oct 2011</p>  <p>Mrs. Ipek (FeraneK) Ferid</p>

Dear sir/madam,

### COMMUNICATION 1: DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS OF MRS IPEK (FERANEK) FERID

This is Communication 1 to defend human rights of Mr. FeraneK Ferid (whose penname is Ipek as to be used here), a veteran of feminism and the movement for woman's right in Southern Azerbaijan, an activist of the national movement of Southern Azerbaijan and environmental campaigner for saving lake Urmu. The Iranian authorities arbitrarily detained her on 3 September 2011 together with hundreds of other Southern Azerbaijani prisoners of conscience, as pointed out by our Briefing Note 2 (Ref: 546/ 2011, on 5 Sep 2011). Table 1 presents the form for her defence detained arbitrarily with the specific details of her case.

Mrs. Ferid was beaten up during the arrest and was tortured during the interrogation time, so that she still suffers from hearing problems and from severe headaches and dizziness. Amnesty International has also campaigned for her (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/MDE13/078/2011/en/608c8e29-4671-49ab-b138-5a8cb9486e9f/mde130782011en.html>). As also informed by Amnesty International, it is believed that she has been brought before a judge, who ordered her temporary detention for 10 days.

We should inform that besides Amnesty International, the delegates of the 77th International PEN congress in Belgrade, Serbia, 12-18 September 2011 (<http://penreporter.blogspot.com/>), also campaigned for Mrs. Ferid's immediate and unconditional release. We concur with these campaigns and believe that she has been subjected to arbitrary acts of detention, she has been tortured and she is still in detention. In order to protest to these arbitrary acts by the Iranian authorities, she has resorted to a hunger strike.

The defence of Mrs. Ipek (FeraneK) Ferid is only in the hands of your mandates and only your defence will curb the arbitrary acts of the Iranian authorities against her and restore her human rights and liberty.

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:	Mrs. Ferid (may also be transcribed as Faranak – فرید);
2. First name:	Feranek (may also be transcribed as Faranak – فرانک)
3. Sex: (M/F)	Female
Marital status	Married with grown up sons
4. Year of date (age):	1961 (50 years old)
5. Nationality	Southern Azerbaijani; a citizen of the Islamic Republic of Iran
6. (a) Identity document:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not available</li> </ul>
(b) Issued by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not known but it is normally issued by the Registry Office of Tebriz</li> </ul>
(c) On (date):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not available</li> </ul>
7. Profession / activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renowned feminist activist of Southern Azerbaijan, an activist of national Movement of Southern Azerbaijan, Environmentalist and a campaigner for saving Lake Urmu, poet and writer</li> </ul>
8. Place of usual residence	Tebriz (Tabriz)

**II. Arrest**

1. Date of arrest:	The victim was arrested on 3 September 2011, around 5-7 p.m.
2. Place of arrest:	Based on our own sources, the arrest took place in the 3-Way Junction of Emin (or Amin).
3. Forces who carried out the arrest or are believed to have carried it out:	<p>The names of the perpetrators are not known but they are believed to be security agents operating for the Ministry of Information of the Islamic Republic of Iran.</p> <p>The arrest took place when there was a massive protest (Please see our Briefing Note, Ref.: 546/ 2011 on 5 Sept 2011) of Southern Azerbaijanis against the Iranian policies on deliberately drying up lake Urmu, where she was arrested, while possibly due to her renowned profile, as hundreds were rounded up and arrested.</p>
4. Did they show a warrant by a public authority?	Almost definitely no.
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.



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6.Relevant legislation applied (if known):	Our reports including ( <a href="http://urmuiscileri1.blogspot.com/2011/09/blog-post_2455.html">http://urmuiscileri1.blogspot.com/2011/09/blog-post_2455.html</a> ) indicate that the act of arrest was arbitrary and not based on any legislation.
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<b>III. DETENTION</b>	
1. Date of detention	The Iranian authorities have failed their duties of issuing these details and therefore we assume that the victim was detained immediately.
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 Tebriz were holding here for a few days during interrogations but she was then transferred to Tebriz prison and that is where she is being held now.
5. Authorities that ordered the detention	Highly likely to be the Ministry of Information
6.Reasons for the detention imputed by the authorities	There have been no imputed charges published against here until recently but it seems that the charges brought against here are: the usual package of “Insulting to the leadership”, “propaganda against the system of the Islamic Republic” and “undermining the national security.”
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**

Mrs. Ferid was arrested in Erdebil on 3 September 2011.

By nationality, she 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. This information is relevant to the case, as follows. 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 27<sup>th</sup> in Urmu and Tebriz,
- (ii) September the 3<sup>rd</sup> in Urmu and Tebriz, (iii) September the 10<sup>th</sup> in Urmu, Tebriz, Qoshachay,
- (iii) September the 14<sup>th</sup> in Erdebil
- (iv) September the 20<sup>th</sup> 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.



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

Based on the above background, the Iranian authorities arrested Mrs. Ferid, while she was taking part in protests in Tebriz on 3 September 2011 (Please see our Briefing Note, Ref.: 546/ 2011 on 5 Sept 2011). She was assaulted and beaten so severely during the arrest that she has been unable to move one of her arms. She also lost the hearing in her left ear and still suffering from it.

Based on Amnesty International Information (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/MDE13/078/2011/en/608c8e29-4671-49ab-b138-5a8cb948e9f/mde130782011en.html>) Mrs. Ferid “was interrogated for many hours at a detention centre in Tabriz. Her glasses were taken from her and she was forced to sign a document that she could not read. She is believed then to have been brought before a judge, who ordered her temporary detention for 10 days.” Also “Despite requesting access to a doctor, Faranak Farid is not known to have received medical care up to now, deepening concern for her health and well-being.” We believe this remains the case. She is believed to have resorted to a hunger strike recently. Also, her glasses were taken from her and she was forced to sign a document that she could not read.

**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. Here 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](mailto:Boyuk_Resuloglu@hotmail.com)

**Date: 11 October 2011**

**Signature: As per email**