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The Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva,

Please circulate this Communication to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders, also this of interest to:

- Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers
- The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
- Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
- The Independent Expert on Minority Issues

CC Mrs. Harrison, Amnesty International, London

Dear sir/madam,

**Re COMMUNICATION – UPDATE NO 1: ON ARBITRARY SENTENCING OF
SOUTHERN AZERBAIJANI ACTIVISTS BY IRANIAN AUTHORITIES**

We endeavour to consolidate by evidence that sentences issued to Southern Azerbaijani activists and human right defenders by the Iranian authorities are arbitrary. These arbitrary sentences are driven by racist policies inflicted by the Islamic Republic of Iran and therefore there is a gap between human rights of the nation of Southern Azerbaijan and the responsibilities of this Islamic republic, referred here as authorities. This draft report, when finalised, aims to substantiate this by evidence.

Keeping a track of these arbitrary sentences is a massive task and therefore we aim to structure it as a report in the form of a live document with updates issued, as and when it is necessary. A preliminary step to this end was taken in a general Communication on 17 September 2006.

We are confident that you are true to the mandates entrusted upon you by the UN authority on behalf of the world community. We rely on your mandates and authority to safeguard human rights of Southern Azerbaijanis and fight against Iranian racism. Owing to the scale of the task involved, we cannot see how this is possible without visiting Southern Azerbaijan. We believe nothing is a replacement to directly talking to prisoners of conscience promoting the cause for Southern Azerbaijan as well as those who are gagged by arbitrary conditional sentences of the Iranian regime. We trust that you are already anticipating the country visit to Southern Azerbaijan and hope that in your list are:



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Mr. Abbas Leysanli, now imprisoned in Tebriz

Mr. Rza Abbasi imprisoned in Zenjan Prison

Mr. Saleh Kamrani

Mr. Hesən Azerbaijan

Mr. Hesən Rashidi

Hojjatulislam Ezimi Qedimi

As well as a whole range of other prisoners of conscience.

. We thank you in advance for your care.

Yours faithfully,

Boyuk Resuloglu

The Committee for the Defence of the Rights of World Azerbaijanis