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Say (No.): 476/ 2007  
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The Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva

Please circulate this letter to:

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

CC Mr Dyke and Mrs. Harrison, Amnesty International, London

Mr. Abbas Leysanli



a prison of conscience

Dear sir/madam,

### COMMUNICATION: UPDATE NO 9 ON THE IMMINENT FLOGGING OF MR. LEYSANLI

Further to our Update 8 (Ref: 474/2007; Date: 21 December 2007) regarding the threat of flogging posed by the Iranian authorities upon Mr. Abbas Leysanli, we would like to submit to you Update 9 reflecting anxious times being faced by the nation of Southern Azerbaijan. Mr. Leysanli is seen as the leading figure of the national movement of Southern Azerbaijan and Amnesty International has been amply spoken out about him and holds him outright as a prisoner of conscience. His prison term shall be completed on 30 December 2007 and we expect nothing less than his unconditional reclaim of liberty.

The 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2007 is a day to test the waters on the extent to which the Iranian authorities can violate the integrity of the Universal Human Rights Declaration. The situation is as follows:

1. **Level 1** of the Iranian encroachment onto national and human rights of Mr. Leysanli is verified by the arbitrary jail sentence passed against him. In addition, the right for periodic temporary release, as enjoyed by any other prisoners, has been denied to him throughout his sentence. We have compiled documents for your attention in this respect in the past.
2. **Level 2** of Iranian encroachment onto the national and human rights of Mr. Leysanli is verified by the threat of flogging against Mr. Leysanli, the leading figure of the national movement of Southern Azerbaijan. Such threats are based around a system of values that harks back to the Middle Ages.
3. **And now, Level 3** of Iranian encroachment onto national and human rights of Mr. Leysanli is to be tested on the 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2007, the release date from prison of Mr. Leysanli. The test depends on whether or not the deplorable act of flogging is inflicted on Mr. Leysanli, a defenceless prisoner of conscience, a poet and a leader of a nation. Naturally, the test on December the 30<sup>th</sup> will be seen whether or not all the civilised values within the Iranian authorities are depleted or still there are trickles left.

We are confident that you have made a solemn representation of your mandates on defending the human and national rights of Mr. Leysanli. Your campaign at this stage is an uphold of justice and a defence of the national and human rights of Mr. Leysanli. We thank you in advance for your campaign.

Yours faithfully,  
Boyuk Resuloglu



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The Committee for the Defence of the Rights of World Azerbaijanis