

President Ilham Aliyev
Office of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic
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AZERBAIJAN

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Dear President,

I am writing to you to express my deep concern regarding the case of imprisoned journalist Eynulla Fatullayev.

Amnesty International - an organization which promotes human rights around the world, including freedom of expression - considers Eynulla Fatullayev to be a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for exercising his right to peaceful free expression. I therefore call upon the Azerbaijani authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Eynulla Fatullayev, and ensure that he receives appropriate compensation.

Amnesty International condemns Eynulla Fatullayev's recent conviction on drugs charges and believes that the charges were fabricated. I am also concerned that, according to his lawyer, Eynulla Fatullayev's recent trial on these charges did not meet international standards for fair trials.

I note that the European Court of Human Rights has ruled, in relation to his convictions from 2007, that Eynulla Fatullayev should be released. I am deeply concerned that by sentencing Eynulla Fatullayev to a further prison term three months after the European Court ruling was made, Azerbaijan has clearly sought to side-step the Court's judgment.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to urge the Azerbaijani authorities to guarantee the right of freedom of opinion and expression as set out in Azerbaijan's domestic legislation, as well as its international obligations. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Copy to:

Azerbaijan Ambassador to the U.S.

Embassy of Azerbaijan

Ambassador Yashar T. Aliyev

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Washington D.C. 20008

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Salutation: Dear Ambassador