

Statement of Azerbaijan's CSOs

Baku city

May 15, 2013

Of representatives of the Civil Society on the government's discredit campaign and torture of political activists who were arrested illegally and by political order.

On April 30 during a peaceful action held with the slogan "No terror" for the 4th commemorate anniversary of the terror acted in Azerbaijan State Oil Academy the police arrested in administrative order Abulfaz Qurbanli the Chairman of PFP Youth Commission, Turgut Qambar the member of Board at "NIDA" Civil Movement and Ilin Rustamzade the member Youth Freedom Organization and subject to torture in Baku City Chief Police Office Ministry of Internal Affairs of Azerbaijan. On May 10 when the arrested activists cleaned up the photos were taken and shared in some government-oriented web sites with derogatory comments. There is a clear goal in these photos that in this way they want to put pressure on them and other activists, discouraging them from the struggle by blackmail. At the same time they try to discredit them in the society by these means.

After the arrest the activists were not allowed to meet with their advocates in contradiction to the law, the food for the activists sent by their relatives was not accepted and their head shaved bold against their will. This shows that the activists were subject to torture.

Such attitude towards arrested people at the station which is specially protected by the police and especially the dissemination of the photos are absolutely illegal and must be punished. Especially there remains the question how the photos were shared from the indoor place? We strongly assume that there chief persons and employees played a role in sharing the photos and declare that the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Azerbaijan is responsible for sharing such photos. We remind that the activists were arrested by political order and we condemn these illegal actions towards them, sharing these photos as the discredit campaign of the government against their opponents. We also notify that putting to the torture the persons in custody or in arrest and the dissemination of the photos are contrary to local and international law. The Constitution of Azerbaijan Republic and all joined international documents, furthermore the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms absolutely prohibit torture. Moreover the 32nd item of our Constitution detects the personal inviolability and the 46th item detects the protection of honor and dignity by the state.

As representatives of civil society, we protest this kind of illegality and treatment of the three young men that were arrested, while using their freedom of fundamental expression and assembly and we want those states personalities to be prosecuted for torture and the spreading of photos.

We ask the international community to pay attention to violation of human rights on the eve of the elections that will be held in Azerbaijan this year, to make an effort to improve the current situation and to demand the realization of the liability within human rights in Azerbaijan that are required by various international organizations.

1. Intigam Aliyev, Head of Legal Education Society
2. Arzu Abdullayeva, Chairman of Azerbaijan National Committee of Helsinki Citizens Assembly
3. Gubad Ibadoglu, Chairman of Public Initiative Centre
4. Zohrab Ismayil, Head of "Support to Free Economy" Public Union
5. Vidadi Isgandarli, Chairman of "Support to protection of Democracy" Public Union
6. Irada Javadova, Director of "Enlightment for Human Rights" Public Union
7. Anar Mammadli, The director of "of Elections Monitoring and Democracy Education Centre"
8. Leyla Yunus Director of "Peace and Democracy Institute"
9. Mirali Huseynov, Chairman of "Democracy learning" Public Union
10. Rasul Jafarov, Chairman of "Human Rights" Club
11. Zaur Akbar, Director of "Youth Club" Public Union
12. Arastun Orujlu, Director of "East-West" Research Center
13. Bakhtiyar Hajiyev, Director of Positive Change Youth Movement
14. Matanat Azizova, Director of Women Crisis Center
15. Elchin Abdullayev, Director of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Public Union
16. Shahla Ismayil, Director Women Association for Rational Development
17. Samir Kazimli, Coordinator Alliance for Defense of Political Freedom
18. Rovshan Aghayev, Director of Center of Support of Economic initiatives
19. Asima Nasirli, Head of "Feminist Women Movement" Public Union
20. Ogtay Gulaliyev, Head of Society for Democratic Reforms
21. Mirvari Gahramanli, Head of the Oilworkers' Rights Protection Committee
22. Mehriban Vazir, Chairman of center for Political Culture of Azerbaijani Women Public Union
23. Ilgar Ibrahimoglu, Chairman of the Centre for the Protection of Freedom of Conscience and Religion,
24. Leyla Aliyeva, Director of National and International Studies Center
25. Aygun Panjaliyeva, Board Member of NIDA Civic Movement
26. Rovshan Hajibayli, Director of Democratic Journalism School
27. Eldar Zeynalov, Director of Center for Azerbaijan Human Rights
28. Elshan hasanov coordinator of Azerbaijan without Political Prisoners Community Alliance
29. Khalid Kazimov, Director of Regional Human Rights and Media Center
30. Ulvi Hasanli, Board Member of Free Youth Organization
31. Anar Orujov, Director of Caucasus Media Investigation Center
32. Alovzat Aliyev, president of Azerbaijan Migration Center Public Union
33. Elchin Namazov, Director of the Institute Defense of Rights and Freedoms