



His Excellency, Mr Ilham Aliyev
President of Azerbaijan
The Presidential Palace
Istiglaliyyat street 19
AZ1066
Baku
Azerbaijan

Norwegian Parliament

Date: December 2, 2014

Appeal for immediate protection of human rights defender Leyla Yunus

Mr President,

As members of the Norwegian delegations to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, we share the concerns expressed by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muižnieks, after his recent visit to Azerbaijan, on the deteriorating situation for human rights defenders in Azerbaijan in general and the health condition for Mrs Leyla Yunus in particular.

It has been brought to our attention that Mrs Yunus' health is critical and in need of urgent attention, and we call on the Azerbaijani authorities to provide immediate access to necessary health care treatment for Mrs Yunus. We would like to underline the human rights commitments of the government of Azerbaijan to provide adequate detention conditions in respect of human dignity.

Mrs Yunus is one of several human rights defenders in Azerbaijan that are imprisoned on false accusations and without a just judicial process. We denounce the judicial and administrative harassment of human rights defenders, and we call on the Azerbaijani authorities to protect those individuals who work and struggle for democracy and human rights.

It is unacceptable that a member state of the Organization Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Council of Europe, and the United Nations violate the key principles of democracy and human rights.

Yours sincerely,



Geir Jørgen Bekkevold
Head of the Norwegian delegation
to the OSCE PA



Ingjerd Schou
Head of the Norwegian delegation
to PACE



Torstein Solberg Tvedt
Member of the delegation
to the OSCE PA



Kari Henriksen
Member of the delegation
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Ola Elvestuen
Member of the delegation
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Tor André Johnsen
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Tone Merete Sønsterud
Member of the delegation
to the OSCE PA

Copy:

*Mr Ogtay Asadov
Speaker of the Milli Majlis*

*Mr Zakir Garalov
Prosecutor General of Azerbaijan*

*Mrs Anne Brasseur
President of PACE*

*Mr Ilkka Kanerva
President of the OSCE PA*

*Mr Torbjørn Jagland
Secretary General of the Council of Europe*

*Mr Lamberto Zannier
Secretary General of the OSCE*

*Mr Børge Brende
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway*