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President of Azerbaijan

Ilham Aliyev

Office of the President of Azerbaijan

19 Istiqlaliyyat Street

Baku AZ1066

Azerbaijan

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Dear President Aliyev,

**I am writing to express my grave concerns regarding the continued arbitrary detention of human rights defender Anar Mammadli and denial of adequate healthcare in prison**. According to his lawyers, Anar Mammadli`s health has deteriorated in prison. His arthritis has reportedly worsened, and he has developed regular stomach cramps and headaches. He is also suffering from symptoms of bronchitis, including shortness of breath and a persistent cough. Many of those health issues have started in 2014 following his previous arbitrary detention and have worsened further during his present arrest.

On 17 and 25 October he had blood tests and stomach scans carried out in the prison medical facilities; however, the prison authorities have not subsequently provided him with the result of his medical examination. The penitentiary authorities have to date failed to carry out thorough examinations and to provide him with the treatment that he requires, despite several appeals from his lawyer.

Anar Mammadli is a prominent human rights defender, head of the Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Centre, and co-founder of the Climate of Justice Initiative in Azerbaijan. He was arrested on 29 April 2024 on fabricated charges of «smuggling by prior conspiracy by a group of persons» under Article 206.3.2 of the Criminal Code of Azerbaijan and has since remained in detention. If convicted he faces up to eight years in prison.

**I urge you to ensure Anar Mammadli’s immediate and unconditional release. Pending this, he must be provided with adequate healthcare to assess and treat his deteriorating health condition, including providing him with the results of his recent medical examination. I also urge you to end the misuse of the criminal justice system to target criticism and dissent.**

Yours sincerely,

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**Copie**

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