\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

President of Azerbaijan

Ilham Aliyev

Office of the President of Azerbaijan

19 Istiqlaliyyat Street

Baku AZ1066

Azerbaijan

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dear President,

**I am writing to express my concern about the ongoing arbitrary detention of at least seven journalists and media workers after the 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (COP29).**

On 6 December 2024, law enforcement arrested Meydan TV employees **Khayala Agayeva,** **Aytaj Ahmadova**, **Aynur Ganbarova**, **Natig Javadli**, **Aysel Umudova**, and **Ramin Deko (Jabrayilzade**), and Deputy Director of Baku School of Journalism **Ulvi Tahirov**. They were reportedly accused of smuggling currency into the country. This accusation, which is similar to that used against other critical voices in Azerbaijan, is trumped up and politically motivated. I am particularly concerned that they were refused access to their lawyers after they were detained. Their lawyers reported that they waited from one to five hours to see their clients on 6 December.

**I urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure an immediate release of all media workers arrested in retaliation for their critical reporting, including the recently arrested employees of MeydanTV and to put an end to the clampdown on media and other independent voices in Azerbaijan.**

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Copie**

Botschaft der Republik Aserbaidschan, Kramburgstrasse 10, 3006 Bern

Fax: 031 350 50 41 / E-Mail: bern@mission.mfa.gov.az