

I am writing this to express my concern for prominent lawyer Elchin Sadigov. He and his family have been subjected to ongoing intimidation and harassment, including those made online. He was first threatened by an official from Main Organized Crime Department (MOCD) after disclosing information about alleged torture of his client, journalist Fikret Farmazoglu, to the media on November 2.

The official, an investigator of the MOCD, approached him at the security desk of the MOCD while he was retrieving case materials on Fikret Farmazoglu, who is currently detained at the MOCD, and told him that he would "pay a high price" for publicly accusing the staff of the MOCD of torture.

I urge you to promptly, effectively and impartially investigate the threats and incidents of harassment of Elchin Sadigov and his family, including those made online, and ensure that anyone found responsible is brought to justice.

At the same time, I call on you to ensure Elchin Sadigov's safety to continue performing his duties as a defence lawyer.

I also call on you to ensure that all lawyers in Azerbaijan are able to perform their professional duties without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference, in accordance with the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers.

Thank you for your attention to the above.

Sincerely yours,