

Ilham Aliyev
President of Azerbaijan
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Dear President,

I am writing to demand the immediate and unconditional release of Gubad Ibadoghlu, a prominent academic and political activist. He is being targeted for his anti-corruption work and criticism of the Azerbaijani authorities, and was detained on 23 July 2023 on fabricated charges. He remains in Kurdakhani detention centre, where his health is deteriorating due to poor conditions and lack of adequate healthcare.

According to his family, he has not been provided with adequate medicine and treatment for his diabetes and heart conditions. They fear that his health may reach a critical point soon, putting his life in danger. The International Committee of the Red Cross have not been granted access to Gubad Ibadoghlu raising further concerns that the state of his health and his conditions are very poor and being concealed by the government.

In February, Gubad Ibadoghlu was able to communicate through his lawyer from prison:

“My window-less cell is damp, bad smelling and humid, infested with different kinds of insects. I remain unable to access fresh food and clean water. My miserable living conditions and my tormented environment contributed to my declining health. I am suffering from high levels of sugar in blood and aortic aneurysm (extension in the aortic vein in my heart). I am forced to switch to insulin injections with a very high dose, 22 units, in a day. My pulse is usually higher than 110 per minute. I have soaring pain in my lower back ...”

Gubad Ibadoghlu has not committed any crime and the charges against him are trumped up. The conditions of his detention and the denial of adequate health care may amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

I urge you to take steps that will ensure Gubad Ibadoghlu’s immediate and unconditional release. I also urge you to ensure that he is provided immediately with the health care he requires and is protected from torture and other ill-treatment. I also urge you to end the misuse of the criminal justice system in Azerbaijan to target government criticism and dissent.

Yours sincerely,