

URGENT ACTION

LEYLA YUNUS IN FAILING HEALTH IN PRISON

Azerbaijani prisoner of conscience Leyla Yunus's health has deteriorated and she needs urgent medical assistance. The prison authorities are not allowing her hospital treatment or providing her with medication. Her husband Arif Yunus was arrested on 5 August.

Azerbaijani prisoner of conscience **Leyla Yunus** told her friend of her worsening health on 12 August. She said she was feeling weaker and suffering from sharp pains. Leyla Yunus has diabetes and medical problems related to her kidneys. As a result, she requires appropriate medication, as well as a specialized diet.

The prison authorities in Kurdakhany detention facility, close to the capital Baku, have refused to let Leyla Yunus be hospitalized, and are not providing her with adequate healthcare. They are also delaying paperwork necessary before she can receive the medication she needs.

Leyla Yunus was arrested on 30 July on trumped-up charges of treason and other crimes. Her husband, **Arif Yunus**, was under travel restrictions until he too was arrested on 5 August, on similar charges.

Amnesty International considers Leyla and Arif Yunus prisoners of conscience, jailed solely for their criticism of the Azerbaijani government.

Please write immediately in Azeri, English, Russian or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to release Leyla and Arif Yunus immediately and unconditionally;
- Calling on them to provide Leyla Yunus urgently with any medical attention she may require, including medication and hospitalization;
- Insisting on full respect for, and protection of, the right to freedom of expression in Azerbaijan.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 23 SEPTEMBER 2014 TO:

President

Ilham Aliyev
Office of the President of Azerbaijan
19 Istiqlaliyyat Street
Baku AZ1066, Azerbaijan
Fax: + 994 12 492 0625
Email: office@pa.gov.az

Salutation: Dear President Aliyev

Prosecutor General

Zakir Qaralov
7 Rafibeyli Street
Baku AZ1001, Azerbaijan
Email: info@prosecutor.gov.az

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

Kurdakhany Detention Facility authorities

Kurdakhany Detention Facility
Sabuncu Rayon
Azerbaijan

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA 182/14. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR55/009/2014/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International has longstanding concerns about the Azerbaijani authorities' failure to respect their international obligations to protect the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly. Dissenting voices in the country frequently face trumped-up criminal charges, physical assault, harassment, blackmail and other reprisals from the authorities and groups associated with them. Law-enforcement officials regularly use torture and other ill-treatment against detained civil society activists, with impunity.

Amnesty International has documented dozens of cases like that of Leyla and Arif Yunus, and as of 12 August has recognized 22 other prisoners of conscience in Azerbaijan, jailed solely for their peaceful attempts to exercise their right to freedom of expression and association. For more information, see: *Behind bars: Silencing dissent in Azerbaijan* (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR55/004/2014/en>).

Name: Leyla Yunus (f), Arif Yunus (m)
Gender m/f: both

Further information on UA: 182/14 Index: EUR 55/012/2014 Azerbaijan Issue Date: 12 August 2014