

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 141/06 (EUR 55/001/2006, 18 May 2006) Prisoner of conscience/Fear of torture or ill-treatment

AZERBAIJAN

Mushviq Mammedov (m)

Mushviq Mammedov was released from custody on 26 May, having being arrested on 28 April on draft evasion charges. He was placed under house arrest until the beginning of his trial. His mother, Sevil Najafova attended the preliminary hearing on 30 June, which she reported as being properly and fairly conducted.

According to Sevil Najafova, witnesses from the Military Commissariat alleged at the hearing that they had not intended to follow through with their threats to imprison Mushviq Mammedov, only to intimidate him into performing his military service.

The case concluded on 20 July. Although the prosecutor requested a suspended sentence of one year, the judge handed down a suspended sentence of six months in a trial that according to Jehovah's Witnesses sources, was conducted fairly. According to his mother, Mushviq Mammedov may live at home, work and attend religious meetings during his sentence, but the family remain anxious that he may be returned to prison for violating the terms of his suspended sentence.

Many thanks to all those who sent appeals. No further action is requested from the UA Network at present. Amnesty International will continue to monitor the case.