

Write for Rights
Make a difference

3-17 December 2011

Jabbar Savalan
Azerbaijan



ACT NOW

Write to the President of Azerbaijan:

- Stating that you are writing on behalf of Amnesty International, an organization that promotes human rights around the world and considers Jabbar Savalan to be a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression.
- Stating that Amnesty International believes the drugs charges against Jabbar Savalan to be fabricated.
- Calling for Jabbar Savalan's immediate and unconditional release from prison.
- Calling for an immediate and impartial investigation into the allegations that police planted evidence on Jabbar Savalan.

Send appeals to:

President Ilham Aliyev
Office of the President of the Republic
of Azerbaijan
19 Istiqlaliyyat Street
Baku AZ1066
Azerbaijan

Fax: 0099 412 4923543
0099 412 4920625

Salutation: Dear President

Send a message of solidarity:

You can also write a message of solidarity to Jabbar Savalan. Please do not send religious cards.

Jabbar Savalan
Investigation Isolator N 3
Almaz Ildiryim street 41,
Post Office - 1044
Azerbaijan

Example message:

Bu karti size gonderirem, bilirsiniz ki, biz sizinleyik, siz tek deyilsiniz ve dunyada chox insan sizin haqqinizda dushunur.

I am sending this card to let you know that you are not alone, and that many people around the world are thinking of you.

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



September 2011
Index: EUR 55/009/2011
English

Amnesty International
International Secretariat
Peter Benenson House
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom

www.amnesty.org/individuals-at-risk

ACT NOW FOR Jabbar Savalan



History student Jabbar Savalan is serving a two-and-a-half-year prison sentence in Azerbaijan in response to his peaceful anti-government activism, including comments he posted on the website Facebook.

An active member of the opposition Azerbaijan Popular Front Party (APFP), Jabbar Savalan was arrested after reposting on Facebook an article critical of Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev. The article, which described the President as corrupt and a gambler, was originally published in a Turkish newspaper.

On 4 February 2011 Jabbar Savalan used Facebook to call for a "Day of Rage" inspired by protests in the Middle East and North Africa. The next day he told his family he was being followed by unknown men.

On the evening of 5 February, Jabbar Savalan was arrested as he returned home from an APFP meeting in his hometown of Sumgayit. He was seized and placed in a police vehicle without any explanation or being informed of his rights. He was 19 years old at the time.

He was interrogated for two days without access to a lawyer. When he eventually met with his lawyer on 7 February, Jabbar Savalan said that police had slapped and threatened him until he signed a confession.

Police claim to have found 0.74g of marijuana in Jabbar Savalan's outer jacket pocket. Jabbar Savalan says this was planted on him by the police. Subsequent blood tests showed no traces of drug use, and Jabbar Savalan's family, friends and classmates told Amnesty International he had no history of drug use.

Jabbar Savalan was convicted of possessing illegal drugs for personal use on 4 May 2011. He was given a two-and-a-half-year sentence, which is due to end in August 2013. Amnesty International has documented similar cases where police have supposedly found drugs in the possession of prominent critics of the Azerbaijani government, including Eynulla Fatullayev and Sakit Zahidov, who were sentenced to two-and-a-half-years and three years in prison respectively.

3-17 December 2011

Write for Rights
Make a difference