

President of Azerbaijan
Ilham Aliyev
19 Istiqlaliyyat Street
Baku AZ1066
Azerbeidzjan

January 2021

Dear President,

I am writing to call for an immediate and unconditional release of prisoner of conscience, human rights lawyer and media reporter **Elchin Mammad**. On 14 October 2020, the Sumgait City Court sentenced him to four years in prison on trumped-up charges of theft and illegal possession of weapons. He is appealing his sentence.

For years, **Elchin Mammad** has faced harassment from the authorities in connection with his human rights work. In 2015, his organization was investigated, he was subjected to arbitrary detention, placed under travel restrictions, and repeatedly summoned by the police for questioning. His sentencing on trumped up charges is a part of the continuing relentless crackdown on all dissent in Azerbaijan, which must stop.

In the light of the above, I urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure **Elchin Mammad's** immediate and unconditional release and that his unfounded prosecution ends. I also urge you to end the ongoing abuse of the country's criminal justice system for persecution of government critics and human rights defenders.

Yours sincerely,