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Paris, 9 June 2016

H.E. Mrs. Irina BOKOVA
Director-General
UNESCO

Dear Mrs. BOKOVA,

In response to Communication and Information Sector's letter CI/FEM/FOE/fr/2016/44, dated 29 February 2016, I would like to share with you the information related to the death of journalist Rasim Aliyev. Let me emphasize that the Government of Azerbaijan did its utmost in order to bring to justice all perpetrators of this heinous crime. As you may notice in the attached information, the reason of this crime that led to the tragic death of the journalist was his professional activity having no political motives but rather related to personal domestic life incident.

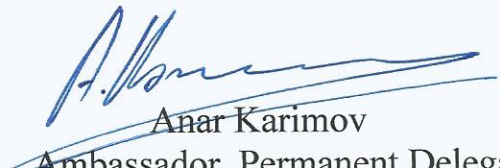
Dear Madame Director General,

Please rest assured that the Government of Azerbaijan will remain committed and sensible to all cases related to combating impunity and safety of journalists and is very keen to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with Organization in all areas related to media development and press freedom.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

Enc. 2 p.

Sincerely yours,


Anar Karimov
Ambassador, Permanent Delegate

Information related to legal investigations on Rasim Aliyev's death

Rasim Aliyev - a video reporter of the ann.az news website died on August 9 2015 at the Clinical Medical Center of Baku. As a result of his death the preliminary criminal investigation has been launched under Article 126.3 of the Criminal code of the Republic of Azerbaijan on August 9, 2015.

As a result of the investigation, it was proven that Elshan Ismayilov together with his friends Jamal Mammadov, Arif Aliyev, Kanan Madatov and Samir Mustafayev met with Mr. R.Aliyev at an earlier arranged spot in front of "Bayil market" located in Bayil district of Baku approximately at 4 pm local time on 8 August 2015.

The meeting was arranged because of the critical status on R.Aliyev's Facebook page and a subsequent telephone conversation; R.Aliyev criticized on Facebook and insulted during the said conversation Javid Huseynov - football player of the "Qabala" football club who is a cousin of Elshan Ismayilov. Following that meeting, a dispute arose between the group of abovementioned people and Mr. Rasim Aliyev with the aim to resolve their dissatisfaction concerning insults made by Rasim Aliyev against footballer Javid Huseynov.

During the meeting, the group could not resolve the matter amicably with Mr.Aliyev and Mr.Aliyev was beaten by the same group, as a result of which his internal organs were severely damaged thus creating serious threats to his life. In addition, Elshan Ismayilov stole a wallet valued 15 AZN with 127 AZN in cash and different bank cards; Arif Aliyev stole a cell phone "Iphone 05 S" valued 406 AZN, all of which belonged to Rasim Aliyev.

R.Aliyev was hospitalized by the ambulance to the Clinical Medical Center N1 where despite the medical intervention of the doctors, he died on August 09 2015 at 5.20 am as a result of internal bleeding caused by severe injuries of internal organs.

Due to committed actions, Ismayilov Elshan and Aliyev Arif were charged under Article 126.3 (Deliberate cause of serious harm to health, with preliminarily organized group of persons, associated with a victim's professional activity, with special cruelty, including application of severe sufferings to a victim resulting in death of a victim) and Article 177.1 (theft) provisions of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan; Mammadov Jamal, Madatov Kanan and Mustafayev Samir were charged under Article 126.3 of the Criminal

Code. All these persons were arrested. The case was considered by the Baku Court on Grave Crimes.

Mr Javid Huseynov was arrested and charged under Article 307.1 (intentional concealment of information about preparing and/or committing serious crimes) and 307.2 (concealment of serious crime without advance notice) of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

With the judgment of the Baku Court on Grave Crimes, delivered on 1st April 2016, - Elshan Ismayilov was found guilty and sentenced for 13 years imprisonment under Articles 126.3 and 177.1 of the Criminal Code; Arif Aliyev was found guilty and sentenced to 12,6 years imprisonment under Articles 126.3 and 177.1 of the Criminal Code; Jamal Mammadov was found guilty and sentenced to 11 year imprisonment under Article 126.3; Samir Mustafayev was found guilty and sentenced to 9 years imprisonment under Articles 126.3 and 32.5; Kanan Madatov was found guilty and sentenced to 9 years imprisonment under Articles 126.3 and 32.5.

With the judgement of the Sabayil district Court of Baku on 31st May 2016, Javid Huseynov was found guilty and sentenced to 4 years imprisonment under Articles 307.1 and 307.2 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The court process on the death of the journalist Rasim Aliyev was conducted in a fair and transparent way in accordance with the national legislation.

To sum up: the simple criticism against the football player of the football club “Qabala” Javid Husyenov led to a dispute which turned into a tragedy resulting in the death of journalist Rasim Aliyev. Although the tragic death of Rasim Aliyev is related to his professional journalism activities, having no political motives but rather being a crime based on personal domestic reasons. All the persons who were found guilty in this case received respective punishment corresponding to the crime they had committed and the case has been closed.