

To: His Excellency Ilham Aliyev
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan
19 Istiglaliyyat Street, Baku, AZ1066
Republic of Azerbaijan

And: Mr. Vasif Cingiz Oglu Abutalibov
Chargé d'affaires, Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan
275 Slater Street, Suite 1203
Ottawa, ON K1P 5H9

Subject: Urgent Request to Release Igbal Abilov

Your Excellency President Ilham Aliyev,
Mr. Abutalibov,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the arrest and continued detention of Igbal Abilov, a respected researcher and scholar. Mr. Abilov, who was detained on July 22, 2024, is facing serious charges that many believe to be erroneous and motivated by his academic work.

Igbal Abilov's work as a researcher has been entirely focused on academic pursuits, and his arrest raises serious concerns about academic freedom and freedom of speech. There is no official public information regarding the grounds for the charges against Igbal. His trial is closed and lawyers are not allowed to share information about his case, but have reported that he denies the charges. According to the media reports, he stands suspected of treason for having communicated with a fellow researcher from Armenia. The charges against him appear to lack legitimate legal grounds and seem to reflect a broader attempt to suppress his academic work.

I urge the Government of Azerbaijan to take immediate steps to secure Mr. Abilov's release and to restore his rights as both a researcher and a citizen. His continued detention under such dubious circumstances is damaging to Azerbaijan's international reputation.

I ask you to intervene in this situation and release Mr. Abilov. This would be a just and humane step and would demonstrate Azerbaijan's commitment to protecting human rights and academic freedoms.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]