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June 24, 2024

Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State

Dear Secretary Blinken,

We are writing about the well-known Azerbaijani economist Dr. Gubad Ibadoghlu. He was arrested in Azerbaijan on July 23, 2023, on spurious charges and spent 274 days in detention under deplorable conditions. He is now under house arrest and subject to police control in Baku, while he awaits his trial date, August 20, 2024.

While in detention, his health badly deteriorated. The aorta in his heart has expanded to a critical level, and the risk to his life is increasing every day. Currently, he does not have access to proper and adequate medical care. He needs medical attention, which he cannot safely receive inside Azerbaijan. He must be allowed to travel to obtain the appropriate medical care that he so desperately needs. We request your urgent personal intervention and urge representatives of the US government to put pressure on Azerbaijani authorities to drop trumped-up charges against Dr. Gubad Ibadoghlu, lift his travel ban, and support his medical examination and treatment abroad.

Signed,

Arien Mack, Founder & Director, New University in Exile Consortium

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