April 26, 2018

Full Name

Title

Organization

Address

Re: Abduction of Mustafa Ceyhan in Baku, Azerbaijan

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

 Mustafa Ceyhan, a businessman from Turkey, entered Azerbaijan from Batumi (Georgia) approximately a year ago. Ceyhan was detained in April last year on charges of illegally crossing the border to Azerbaijan. Ceyhan denied the accusation. He indicated that he took refuge in UN and is under UN protection. Turkish government accused Ceyhan of having ties to the Gulen Movement (also known as Hizmet Movement) and appealed to Azerbaijan to extradite Ceyhan[[1]](#footnote-1).

 On April 26th, Ceyhan was brought before court in Baku and the judge acquitted him from charges pressed against him. Ceyhan's lawyer notified United Nations regarding the decision. However, according to local witnesses, as Ceyhan was leaving court around 12:00 PM, he was abducted in front of the court by a group of eight in a black Ranger Rover with black tinted windows. The plate number of the car is 90 PR 665. His whereabouts are unknown since then. His family, and friends are worried about his condition, and fear that he may be illegally sent back to Turkey where he face risks of torture and ill treatment.

 As it is known Turkish government has been taking strict measures to silence dissidents from various ideologies recently. Gulen/Hizmet Movement has been the main target of the government, which is a faith-based group of people engaging in different voluntary activities such as education, business and health. Alleged supporters of the Movement in Turkey have been dealing with arrest, imprisonment, torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, confiscation and passport seizure.

 Regrettably Turkish government’s actions against the Gulen Movement are not limited to Turkish borders but are also extraterritorial. There are many examples of abductions and physical violence incidents in several countries like Sudan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Georgia, Myanmar, and Malaysia[[2]](#footnote-2). On March 29, six Turkish nationals were illegally arrested in Kosovo and extradited to Turkey by Turkish intelligence officers. Kosovo Prime Minister sacked his intelligence chief and interior minister for not informing him about this illegal operation.

 We are calling all relevant parties to act swiftly and write to their Azerbaijani counterparts and ask for immediate halt to these abductions and to any prospective extradition to Turkey.

Sincerely,

1. http://ovqat.com/kriminal/19646-turkiynin-azrbaycandan-istdiyi-mustafa-ceyhan-hbsd-saxlanld-feto-ittiham.html [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://silencedturkey.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/AST\_Report\_Threats\_Gulen-Movement.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)