

His Excellency Ilahim Aliyev
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Call for the immediate release of Mr. Gubad Ibadoghlu

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you in relation to the ongoing detention of Mr. Gubad Ibadoghlu, a renowned scholar who served as a civil society representative for six years on the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Board which I currently chair.

Mr. Gubad was a leading advocate of transparency and accountability globally and in Azerbaijan's extractive sector both during and after his service as an EITI Board member from 2013-2019. His arrest, detention, and ill-health has raised serious concerns among EITI stakeholders and prominent representatives of the international community.

As setter of the global standard for good governance of natural resources, it is an integral part of the EITI's core mission to protect civic space and give citizens the right to express their views on natural resource governance without fear of reprisal. Azerbaijan itself played a leading role in the EITI from the organisation's creation in 2003 until your country's decision to withdraw in 2017.

The impact of restricting Mr. Gubad's ability to exercise his basic rights is felt beyond Azerbaijan, given his contribution to the global movement on promoting accountability in the extractive sector. We hope that protecting civic space will be given priority by your administration, especially in the context of Azerbaijan hosting the Conference of Parties (COP 29) in November which will attract worldwide attention. I respectfully urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure the immediate release of Mr Gubad.

Yours faithfully,



Rt Hon Helen Clark
Chair of the Board
Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.