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GERMANY

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H.E Ilham Aliyev

Office of the President of Azerbaijan

19 Istiqlaliyyat Street

Baku AZ1066

**ASERBAIDSCHAN**

*Mehman Huseynov*

Dear President,

I was extremely concerned to hear that the journalist and non-violent prisoner of conscience **Mehman Huseynov** was set to be released from prison after completing a two-year sentence but was then on 26 December subjected to charges by the authorities on several new accounts. They assert that he attacked a police officer in the prison and hence charge him with bodily harm. Mehman Huseynov denies this accusation and on the same day began a hunger strike as protest against the charges.

In the light of this distressing situation, dear President, I call upon you respectfully to have all measures taken to ensure that this new charge without basis against Mehman Huseynov is immediately dropped and that he is released from prison immediately and unconditionally. It is apparent to me that he is only being detained for exercising peacefully his right to freedom of speech.

Yours faithfully,

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