



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

Dr. Peter Eigen
Chairman, Board of Directors

Dr. Kamal Hossain
Chairman, Advisory Council

International Secretariat
Otto-Suhr-Allee 97-99
D – 10585 Berlin, German
Tel: 49-30-3438 20-0
Fax: 49-30-3470 3912

e-mail: ti@transparency.org
<http://www.transparency.org>

18 December 2001

His Excellency
President Aliyev
Baku, Azerbaijan

Dear Mr. President,

Since achieving independence 10 years ago Azerbaijan has taken great strides on its road towards building democracy. Plurality of political parties, freedom of the press and a developing civil society are all strong indicators of this process moving forward. Still, there are outstanding issues to be resolved on the path towards a fully-fledged democracy.

Transparency International would like to express its concern about the outcome of the legal proceedings against Janmirza Mirzoev. We share alongside the US Embassy and the international community the view that his sentencing and the manner in which his trial and investigation were conducted appear to have been inconsistent with the principles of due process of the law.

As the leading international Civil Society Organization working to curb corruption and promote increased transparency and accountability in systems of governance, Transparency International feels duty bound to express its concern regarding the trail of Mr. Mirzoev.

Mr. President, you have called on your government to combat corruption and some tangible measures have already been undertaken. However, corruption cannot be fought if those that expose corruption are submitted to the treatment meted out to Mr. Mirzoev. Therefore, we call on you to use your powers to look into the case of Mr. Mirzoev to ensure that his case is given due process.

Sincerely,

Hansjörg Elshorst
Managing Director