

Brussels, 7 September 2020

Statement of the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum on the conviction of Tofiq Yagublu

In its statement of 24 March 2020, the Steering Committee expressed its outrage at the arrest of Tofiq Yagublu – a prominent member of the opposition Musavat Party and the National Council of Democratic Forces in Azerbaijan – on politically-motivated charges of “hooliganism committed with the use of a weapon or an object used as a weapon” under Article 221.3 of the Criminal Code.

Having been denied the right to make a final statement in court, Mr. Yagublu began a hunger strike, before being sentenced on 3 September to four years and three months in prison by Nizami District Court in Baku. This conviction, arrived at through false testimony, represents a grave miscarriage of justice, and the Steering Committee condemns it without reservation.

In echo of the European External Action Service’s own [statement](#) on the issue, the Steering Committee calls upon the authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan to re-examine Mr. Yagublu’s case with the utmost urgency, in line with the country’s international commitments on protecting and enhancing political freedoms and the rule of law.

Members of the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

Zaur Akbar, Youth Club Public Union, Azerbaijan

Olga Chyzhova, Digital Communication Network, Estonia

Ina Coseru, National Environmental Center, Moldova

Lousineh Hakobyan, Europe in Law Association, Armenia

Mikayel Hovhannisyan, Eurasia Partnership Foundation, Armenia

Shahla Ismayil, Women’s Association for Rational Development (WARD), Azerbaijan

Maksym Koriavets, Polissya Foundation for International and Regional Studies, Ukraine

Mikalai Kvantaliani, Association “New Group”, Belarus

Natia Kuprashvili, Journalism Resource Center, Georgia

Adrian Lupusor, Expert-Grup, Moldova

Tatiana Marian, National Trade Union Confederation of Moldova

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