

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LAW



June 11, 2018

Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
United States Secretary of State
Office of the Secretary
Harry S. Truman Building
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

We write to you from Syracuse University where it was recently brought to our attention that a 2018 graduate from the University's College of Law, Emin Aslan, may have been unlawfully detained in Baku, Azerbaijan. According to his friends, family, and media reports, Mr. Aslan, a human rights lawyer, was detained on June 4, 2018 by unidentified individuals who are connected to the country's Department for Combating Organized Crime.

We are deeply concerned by this news, and write to urge the U.S. Department of State to investigate this matter, including Mr. Aslan's whereabouts and the reasons for his suspected detention. If, as human rights organizations suspect, Mr. Aslan is being detained to curb his human rights advocacy work and silence his opinions about the Azerbaijan government, then this act goes against the fundamental values that we try to instill in our students, and is an affront to democracy.

The University is prepared to do what it can to help procure information about Mr. Aslan's disappearance. The safety of our students and alumni is of great importance to us and we hope that you will consider our request.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mike Haynie at 315-443-0141 or Craig Boise at 315-443-9580.

Respectfully,

J. Michael Haynie, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor, Strategic Initiatives & Innovation
Executive Director, Institute for Veterans & Military Families
Barnes Professor of Entrepreneurship

Craig M. Boise
Dean and Professor of Law

CC: Senator Gillibrand, Senator Schumer and Representative Katko