



INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

November 8, 2005

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His Excellency President Ilham Aliyev
19 Istiglaliyat Street
Baku, Azerbaijan

Fax: 011 994 12 920 625

Dear President Aliyev:

The International League for Human Rights, an international non-governmental organization with special consultative status at United Nations Economic and Social Council, is writing to express its grave concern about the conduct of the November 6 parliamentary election which, according to international observers, fell short of international standards for free and fair elections and did not meet Azerbaijan's international election-related commitments.

The League is also alarmed by the reports of widespread electoral irregularities and fraud. The International Observations Mission, a joint undertaking of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe, noted that both the campaign period and election day were fraught with numerous violations, including restrictions of freedom of assembly, intimidation of candidates and voters, attempts to influence voters, and ballot stuffing.

According to preliminary results announced by Azerbaijan's Central Election Commission, the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan (New Azerbaijan) Party won 62 of 125 seats, while the main opposition coalition Azadlyq (Freedom) won 5 seats. The Commission also stated that there were no reports of serious electoral violations. However, the opposition refuses to recognize the election results and has called for results in approximately 100 of total 125 districts to be annulled.

Your Excellency, we urge you to immediately launch a thorough investigation into the reported electoral irregularities and fraud to the fullest extent of Azerbaijan's law. Also, we respectfully call upon you and the administration to uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, to which Azerbaijan is a signatory.

Thank you for your attention. We welcome your comments.

Sincerely,

Robert Arsenault
President