US Congressman James Moran: I Am Concerned Mr. Hajizada and Mr. Milli Will Not Receive a Fair Trial

WASHINGTON. August 25, 2009. As reported by Azerbaijani-Americans for Democracy (AZAD), US Congressman James Moran of Virginia, a member of the powerful house appropriations committee, has sent a letter to the US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, regarding the case of the arrested Azerbaijani bloggers Hajizada and Milli. In the letter Congressman Moran expresses suspicion that the arrest of the bloggers was motivated by their political views, and raises concerns that they will not receive a fair trial in Azerbaijan.

Congressman Moran further asks Secretary Clinton about the steps the US government is taking to ensure a fair trial for the two activists, and notes that “it is important for the United States to show it is concerned when freedom of expression is stifled wherever it occurs”.

Below is the full text of the letter:

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Congressman Moran further asks Secretary Clinton about the steps the US government is taking to ensure a fair trial for the two activists, and notes that “it is important for the United States to show it is concerned when freedom of expression is stifled wherever it occurs”.

Below is the full text of the letter:
August 24, 2009

Honorable Secretary Hillary Clinton,

U.S. Department of State

2201 C Street NW

Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

I write to you concerning the arrests of Adnan Hajizada and Emin Milli in Azerbaijan. Mr. Hajizada and Mr. Milli were arrested on July 8, 2009, in Baku, on the charges of hooliganism. Their arrest received world attention as they are known civic activists and bloggers who have expressed opposition to the ruling government of Azerbaijan. It is suspected that their arrests were the result of politically expressed views rather than criminal acts.

I am concerned that Mr. Hajizada and Mr. Milli will not receive a fair trial in Azerbaijan due to a weak justice system. Is the Department of State taking any steps to ensure the aforementioned men receive a fair trial? It is important for the United States to show that it is concerned when freedom of expression is stifled wherever it occurs.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

James P. Moran