



Head of Southern Azerbaijan National Awakening Movement (SANAM)

December 26, 2016

Dear Ms. Jahangir,

I am writing this letter to you regarding an urgent matter, one that involves the life of a human rights activist by the name of Mr. Murtaza Muradpur. Mr. Muradpur is a South Azerbaijani human rights activist who has been on hunger strike since October 25th of 2016. The Iranian regime arrested and imprisoned Mr. Muradpur on false charges and he has not been granted fair trial. In protest to this, Murtaza Muradpur is continuing his hunger strike and is now on the 63rd day.

His health condition is deteriorating rapidly, and his family is told little of his condition as he is currently in prison at the South Azerbaijani city of Tabriz. The regime has not taken a step to aid Mr. Muradpur in abandoning this lethal course. Reports from doctors and his family indicate that his condition is critical and highly lethal if no further action is taken to halt the strike.

I write to you both as the founder of the SANAM along with martyrs such as Gulamriza Emani, and also as the first South Azerbaijani prisoner of conscience (after the formation of SANAM in 1995) who went on a 63 day hunger strike beginning May 19 of 2000 in Tabriz, as documented by the United Nations and Amnesty International. I know firsthand what hunger strike does to one's body and mind. I have suffered a great deal of health problems which continue on to this day and the trauma is not easily forgotten.

As the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, you have a certain important role to warn the Iranian regime of the consequences for breaking international law and tenets of human rights conventions it has signed and help Mr. Muradpur receive the treatment he urgently needs. Please take all necessary steps to ensure the UN changes this course of action.

Dr. Mahmudali Chehrgani

Her Excellency,

Asma Jilani Jahangir