



Armenian Society of Columbia University

August 31, 2012

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General of the United Nations  
760 United Nations Plaza, New York, New York, 10017

Your Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon:

We, the Armenian Society of Columbia University, are writing to you to voice our concern regarding the events surrounding the recent extradition of convicted murderer and Azerbaijani officer Ramil Safarov to Azerbaijan. Despite the Azerbaijani government's express promises to continue his sentence there, the convict was immediately granted a Presidential pardon and released upon arrival in Azerbaijan.

This blatant disregard for Armenian life, promoted by the Azerbaijani regime, is shocking, and Mr. Ilham Aliyev's recognition and glorification of Ramil Safarov as a national hero only serves to further the regime's racist policies of Armenophobia and, sadly, widens the gap in communication between our two peoples. Moreover, the willingness of Azerbaijan to renege on its promises is a farcical subjugation of fundamental principles of international law.

This action, alongside Azerbaijan's persistent insistence on violence and militarism against Armenians worldwide, is clear evidence that the killing of Armenians is de facto decriminalized by Azerbaijan and further validates the right of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh to self-determination.

We are equally surprised by Hungary's unexpected decision to succumb to the lies of the Aliyev regime and extradite Ramil Safarov to Azerbaijan. This occurred despite clear indications that extradition of that convict to a country that views him as a national hero would surely result in the murderer's imminent release.

We urge Your Excellency to act quickly and condemn the actions of Hungary and Azerbaijan. It is ironic that a member of the UN Security Council should at the same time demonstrate such obvious disregard for peace, security, human rights and international law. Left unanswered, this case will become an unfortunate precedent of impunity and endanger lives of Armenians around the world, compromising their fundamental right to life, as guaranteed under the Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations.

Signed,  
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