

# Open Letter to Angela Merkel

Baku Prison, 25 March 2020

**“My life is in danger,  
help me return home  
to Frankfurt”**

**My name is Huseyn Abdullayev. In November 2013, Germany granted me political asylum, thereby protecting me against political persecution from my home country of Azerbaijan.**

In April 2018, I went on a trip to Turkey with a German-issued passport in my name. I made sure that I had the right to travel before undertaking my journey. The person who handed me the passport guaranteed that I could freely move anywhere abroad, bar my country of origin. She said: “You are under the protection of the German State and its Constitution.”

On Saturday 21 April 2018, towards the end of the afternoon, having been in Istanbul for several days, I was arrested by around fifteen police officers wearing uniforms of the Turkish anti-terrorism Office. Despite my repeated demands, I was presented with no document justifying my arrest. I was refused the right to call my lawyers or my family. An hour later, I was imprisoned in a cell in a small local police station.

The following morning, a police car took me to Istanbul's Atatürk international airport. The same day, notwithstanding my total disapproval and vigorous protests, I was forced to embark on a Turkish Airlines flight to Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. My explanations, shouts and supplications were to no effect. In violation of their national and international laws, the Turkish and Azeri authorities coldly carried out what can only be called my kidnapping.

Upon disembarking, I was incarcerated and placed in isolation in a prison in Baku. I have been languishing there for nearly two years to the day. In October 2019,

after a mockery of a trial, I was condemned to six years of prison on the basis of entirely fabricated accusations. My health is deteriorating. My life is in danger.

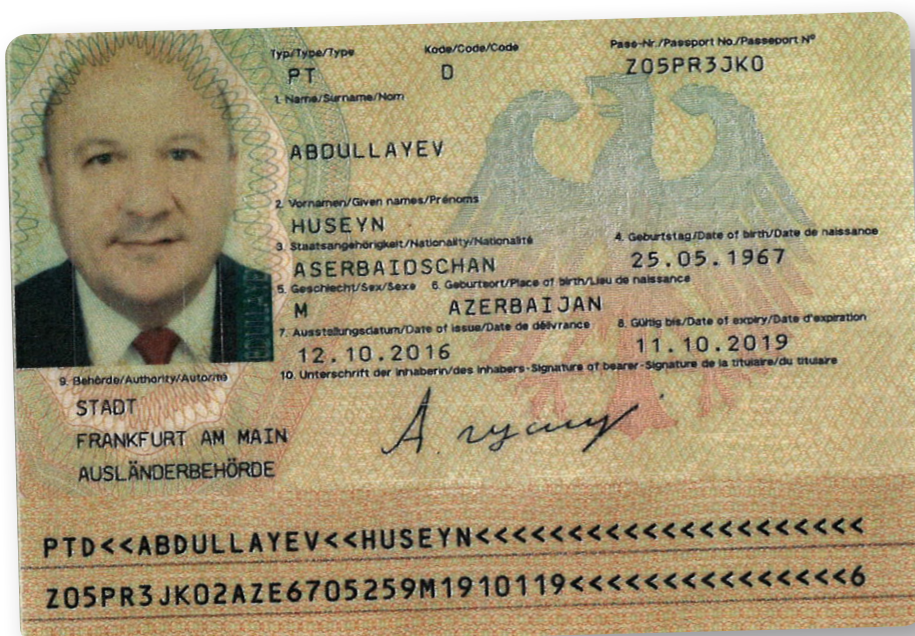
Since my arrest, I have been pleading for Germany to help me. Your diplomatic services first resisted, then consented, to sending a representative of your embassy to be present at some of the audiences of my trial in Baku. The same person visited me once in my cell. This is far from sufficient. How can Germany remain mute when it finds out that a man it granted political asylum to was kidnapped and forcefully brought back to the country whose persecution he fled? To this day, your diplomatic services have rejected all my demands to lodge a formal protest against Turkey and Azerbaijan. They also refuse to intervene in my favour at the highest level of political power in Baku.

I have never violated the law, in any country. My only crime was to criticize the authoritarian regime in my home country. In the face of the inaction of your Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I have no other solution than to appeal to you directly, Madam Chancellor.

**Mrs Angela Merkel, help me return home, to Frankfurt, the city where I lived until my kidnapping and where I own an apartment. I beg you to intervene with President Ilham Aliyev to demand my immediate release.**

With my respectful greetings,

*H. Abdullayev*



After the fall of the Soviet Union, Huseyn Abdullayev, today age 52, became one of his home country's main entrepreneurs. In 2005, he was elected a member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In 2007, after criticizing the work of the Prime Minister, he was arrested, imprisoned, and sentenced to two years in prison. This decision led the European Court of Human Rights to reprimand Azerbaijan. On 5 June 2013, Huseyn Abdullayev uploaded a political video onto YouTube in which he decried the repression in his country and encouraged the population to end their silence. A criminal proceeding for tax evasion was opened against him in Baku the next day. It is this proceeding that has led to the sentence of six years in prison he is currently serving.

In August 2019, Huseyn Abdullayev denounced Turkey and Azerbaijan to the UN's Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which is due to render its decision before summer 2020.

**FreeHuseyn.org**

For any questions, media inquires can be sent to [info@freehuseyn.org](mailto:info@freehuseyn.org)