

April 18, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We have now reached the **one thousandth day of the imprisonment on trumped-up charges of Dr. Gubad Ibadoghlu in his native Azerbaijan.** (Please see <https://patch.com/new-jersey/newarknj/rutgers-grad-fights-free-dad-he-carried-pen-not-weapon>, with links to further information.) On July 23, 2023, Dr. Ibadoghlu was brutally beaten and imprisoned in the notorious Baku Investigative Isolator, where he was kept in unsanitary conditions without clean water, sufficient food, and medications essential to his health. While the Aliyev regime has since released Dr. Ibadoghlu to house arrest--a move demonstrably related to pressure from American and other world political leaders--his continued inability to obtain medical care constitutes a slow and excruciating death sentence for him.

Dr. Ibadoghlu is renowned the world over for his civil society work, promoting democracy and justice. We, his former colleagues at Rutgers University, urge you to recommit to pressuring President Aliyev to release this freedom activist and to allow him to leave the country.

With best wishes and thanks for your attention to this urgent case,

Sadia Abbas, Assoc. Prof. of English  
Yesenia Barragan, Assoc. Prof. of History  
Jacob Bastian, Asst. Prof. of Economics  
Mark Bray, Asst. Prof. of History  
Ethel Brooks, Prof. of Sociology  
Nicole Burrows, Asst. Prof. of History  
Emily van Buskirk, Prof. of Russian  
Michael Cai, Asst. Prof. of Economics  
François Cornilliat, Disting. Prof. of French  
Belinda Davis, Prof. of History  
Leah Devun, Prof. of History  
Michael Elgawly, Teaching Instruc. of Economics  
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