

STATEMENT

of

Farhad Aliyev

Dear court participants,

I certainly uphold the application of my defence to halt the proceedings of this criminal case and I subscribe to everything they said. The issues related to the conduct of the investigation, the injustice committed against me, partiality of the investigation and smear campaign launched against me have been clarified. My innocence and the absurdity of charges I am facing were sufficiently substantiated.

While the defence spoke out mostly about legal aspects of the criminal case and events around it, I would like to touch upon the factual side and request that my thoughts are taken into account while considering this application.

Before I begin my statement, for the support and sympathy that I have received at difficult time in detention, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to:

- The representatives of media, human rights activists, members of Parliament, politicians, western countries' government officials and parliament members, especially the members of the US Congress and Senate.
- The leadership of the European Union, OSCE and the Council of Europe, members of the Parliamentary Assembly and PACE's co-rapporteurs on Azerbaijan.
- Doctors who provided me with a medical care and the Red Cross Committee which has been constantly monitoring the state of my health.

and also thank my relatives and supporters for their relentless moral support.

I assure you that we all will soon witness the triumph of justice.

As it's known, in the afternoon of the 19th of October 2005 two deputies of the Minister of National Security came to my office and accompanied me to their Ministry. After 8 hours of waiting in different offices, at 10 o'clock in the evening I was taken into custody for an alleged coup d'etat attempt and preparation of massive unrest. Although officially I was detained as a suspect, the charges were announced to me on the same day.

I didn't know that the final decision against me had been already made. Since I had never committed anything beyond the limits of law, I ruled out the possibility of criminal proceedings against me.

Even the officials of the Prosecutor General's Office and the Ministry of National Security knew that I had not committed any crime. Shortly after that, I testified that I had never been in contact with Rasul Guliyev and that I met with Fikret Yusifov only to discuss his everyday problems. It was also revealed to the investigation that we didn't even discuss the political power, let alone the coup d'etat.

Fikret Yusifov also testified to the investigation that a coup was not planned.

Despite all that, the charges against me were put forward and the judge, who was invited to the Ministry of National Security, in the investigator's room, read out the decision of the court regarding my arrest.

Apparently, the aim was not to check the suspicion or to ascertain whether or not the coup was actually planned, but rather to isolate me from the society.

It's clear that the main reason behind this were my activities and policies that I pursued. Can the strive for poverty reduction, opening of work places, improvement of the life of people, development of entrepreneurship, strengthening of domestic production, fight against monopolies and corruption as well as the statement that the future of Azerbaijan is not connected with Russia, but with the integration with the West and open advocacy of these, be construed as a coup d'etat?

Today I am aware of the reason behind my arrest and I know those who ordered, organized and executed it and what links them.

It is not about coup d'etat. It is just a pretext. It must be clear. Having realized that their plans had failed, they came up with some bizarre demands. What were those demands?

1. To admit that the money that I lent to Fikret Yusifov was meant to reach Rasul Guliyev and used to organize the coup.
2. To admit that I intended to carry out the "orange revolution" and that the officials of US, British and German governments and their respective ambassadors in Azerbaijan have incited me to do so.
3. To apologize to the president and appeal for his pardon.
4. Then to agree to pay 100 million dollars to be released.

However, as any honorable person I adamantly refused their demands. Exactly for this reason, I and all these innocent people sitting here are still behind bars.

My arrest was politically motivated. The fabricated criminal case launched against me was the result of political arrangement. Unlawful actions during the investigation were also the result of it. Despite being arrested under the pretext of coup d'etat and because these accusations had failed, today those, sinking deeply into the corruption, are trying to

accuse me in corruption. I demand to hold an inquiry into the coup attempt, not into these vague, preposterous and fabricated charges.

For the last 19 months I have been subjected to all kinds of threats. For the sake of justice, our traditions and moral values I have tolerated everything. But they didn't appreciate my tolerance. I appeal to the decision makers today to put an end to such injustice.

Baku, May 15, 2007

Farhad Aliyev