

“Allegedly, I collaborated with the opposition and was in a political conspiracy,” - Eldar Hasanov.

Next day after my detention on August 13, 2020, I testified for the first and last time in the Sabail district court of Baku: "What has happened is a misunderstanding. I believe in justice of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev".

I have not testified until this day in protest that my arrest and charges were illegal, baseless, biased and ordered.

I wish to declare for the first time since then, that the biased information provided by the prosecutor's office is not the real reason of my arrest.

The real reason of my arrest is the provision to the country's leadership of absolutely false, far-fetched information about my political ambitions, alleged cooperation with the political opposition, and voicing some of the statements against the authorities.

Indeed, during closed meetings of the Foreign Ministry, including a closed meeting of the ambassadors representing Azerbaijan in Europe in Brussels on February 2, 2020, and in my letters, I criticized the indifference damaging the policy of our state. But as a responsible official, I did not disclose them anywhere. The transcripts of my speeches and letters are being kept in the relevant government agencies.

I know the organizers of the targeted preparation and transmission of false information, its dissemination in various media over the past two years. If necessary, I will disclose the names of those who achieved my arrest based on lies and fabrications, even sending false information from abroad, who consider themselves close to the country's leadership and abuse it in their own interests.

By the way, from the first day of my arrest, I officially applied to the relevant state agency with a request to prevent one of these persons, by all means, from directly interfering in the objective investigation of the case. However, I am not even sure that my appeals reached the appropriate addressee.

At various stages of the investigation, I turned down multiple offers and attempts to get me to testify against individuals and be released the next day in return. I explicitly stated that there had been no betrayal, nor it is a part of my character to betray, nor in my bloodline to which I belong, nor will it occur in the future.

I reiterate that for 27 years; my path has been the policy of Great Leader Heydar Aliyev and respected President Ilham Aliyev. This has been confirmed by those who know me, my close ones, my practice, and work over these years. Even in the most challenging years, my activity demonstrates the work done by me. Those with the slightest suspicion can analyze and verify my activities over the past 27 years in the framework of conscience and justice.

As for the essence of the information provided to the press, I unequivocally declare that the accusations brought against me are not based on reliable evidence or legal and procedural foundations, but they are ordered, biased, and pursue the goal of revenge against me.

One of the main reasons for my refusal to testify was that the charges were fabricated and provocative (made to force me to testify which would lead to the subsequent abuse of these

statements) and could even damage the image of our state, and in some cases, interstate relations.

The investigation did not hesitate to accuse me of projects related to the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, in which I did not have the intention, authority, and ability to interfere. Thereby, mentioning in the criminal case the name of the late architect Eldar Huseynov, who was sent for a long term (seven years) with an official passport, aiming at direct leadership on the spot, who performed his work with dignity, honesty and high professionalism, is nothing more than a provocation along with lawlessness and injustice.

For this reason, I will have to defend myself in court, giving truthful testimony, and yet, despite all the injustices against me, I still believe that the interests of my state prevail over everything else.

Those who ordered my arrest do it deliberately, for hostile purposes, because they are blinded by revenge.

On the other hand, a serious deterioration in my health in recent years, the lack of specialized medical examinations, operations, and treatment due to the bias of the prosecutor's office during my detention, ill-treatment, a serious illness that I suffered as a result of such treatment, along with other lawlessness, gives me moral and psychological suffering. In fact, those who provide and carry out the order of my physical destruction should first of all fear Almighty Allah.

It is regrettable to see the ordered and biased behavior of the Prosecutor General's Office towards the former Prosecutor General of the country, and such an attitude will undoubtedly remain a black spot in the history of the Prosecutor's Office.

As a person who has suffered from all injustices, conspiracies, deprivation and serious illness, I find comfort only in the fact that our historical lands, which have been under occupation for almost 30 years, were released as a result of the courage of our heroic and victorious army and Supreme Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev.

I just cannot believe that, despite many years of examined and tested relationships based on trust and respect, the distinguished President Ilham Aliyev believed the false and fabricated information provided with the aim of revenge, and why did he agree to this injustice towards me?

My conscience is clear before my country - Azerbaijan and the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. History, time, and divine justice will show it.
Allah is great!

Prof. Dr. Eldar Hasanov