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United States Mission to the OSCE



**Statement on Novruz Pardons in
Azerbaijan**

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
March 25, 2010

We welcome the release of Azadliq editor Ganimat Zahid. His release is a positive step.

We deeply regret, however, that jailed bloggers and youth activists Emin Milli and Adnan Hajizade were not pardoned.

We continue to urge Azerbaijani authorities to resolve the case of Emin Milli and Adnan Hajizade in accordance with Azerbaijan's international commitments and the government's professed goal of developing democratic institutions and a vibrant civil society.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.