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Rule of Law 2  
Right to fair trial*

**Right of Reply by the  
Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

We appreciate the interest of the United States in matters of fair trial in Azerbaijan. I have to note that Azerbaijan is a party to European Convention on Human Rights since April 2002 thus is under jurisdiction of the European Court. The Courts in Azerbaijan directly apply the case-law of the Strasbourg Court and if there are any infringements of the right to fair trial the higher domestic courts would rectify those deficiencies in their decisions. As my colleague noted yesterday, the Government of Azerbaijan carries out the process of judicial reform in the country aimed at full compliance of the judicial system and respect to human rights with requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights and other international instruments in this field.

As to the concern of the US Government with the situation of persons allegedly arrested on charges of attempting to stage a coup d'état, I should note, that even if the initial charges involved articles of the Criminal Code referring to such crimes, the investigation revealed very serious facts of corruption allegedly committed by persons referred to in the statement of the US Representative. Since the investigation of such crimes involves scrupulous and detailed steps by the investigation bodies the detention period of those persons has been prolonged by the decision of relevant prosecuting authorities. Additionally, public is being regularly informed about the course of investigation and steps arranged by the prosecuting authorities in this regard. These persons, receive necessary medical treatment, are being provided with meetings with their legal assistants and relatives.