



## PRESS RELEASE

Baku, 23 April 2012

### **Local EU Statement on Journalist Idrak Abbasov**

*The European Union Delegation issues the following statement in agreement with the EU's and Norway's Heads of Mission in Azerbaijan. The EU Delegation:*

*condemns the brutal beating of Idrak Abbasov, journalist for the 'Zerkalo' newspaper and the "Institute for the Freedom and Safety of Reporters", when he was filming the demolition of houses in the Sulutapa settlement in Baku. This is regrettably yet another example of unacceptable pressure journalists in Azerbaijan are exposed to and runs counter to the country's commitments to guarantee media freedom.*

*calls on the authorities to ensure effective investigation of the incident and prosecution of the perpetrators responsible for the act.*

*calls for all the necessary measures to be taken to ensure that the working environment for journalists in Azerbaijan is free of harassment and intimidation.*

*The EU Delegation remains committed to assisting Azerbaijan in fulfilling its own commitments with regard to fundamental freedoms.*

