

To the Republic of Azerbaijan's Minister  
of Communications and Information Technology  
Mr. Ali Abbasov

## INFORMATION REQUEST

### SENDER OF INFORMATION REQUEST:

**Reporters Without Borders Secretary general, Robert Ménard**  
Address : 47, rue Vivienne, 75002 Paris  
Telephone : 0033 (0)1 44 83 84 84  
Email : [internet@rsf.org](mailto:internet@rsf.org)

**Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety Chairman Emin Huseynov Rafik oglu**  
Address: Baku City, Rashid Behbudov St. #8, Flat 85/86  
Telephone: Landline 418-0334, Mobile (050)398-48-38  
Email: [irfs.az@gmail.com](mailto:irfs.az@gmail.com)

Dear Mr. Minister,

The Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety (IRFS) was founded on 3 May 2006 and is involved in defending the rights of journalist. IRFS was registered with the Ministry of Justice on 29 September 2006.

Reporters without borders is an international organization defending freedom of the press worldwide and free speech on the Web. At Reporters without borders, we fear that your plan to create an organ to oversee the Internet might be an attempt to free speech on the Web and we would like to know exactly what mission it will have.

We would like to draw your attention that on 19 July 2008 APA Information Agency reported that you stated that it is planned to create a state agency in Azerbaijan to oversee internet security. You stated that this organization will seek to prevent cyber crimes and supervise Internet in Azerbaijan. "The creation and activities of this structure is encompassed in the International Convention on Cybercrime, and therefore cannot be considered censorship of the internet," you said.

This statement was interesting to both us and Reporters Without Borders, so we decided to send you a joint information request.

According to the "Law on Access to Information," with the exception of secrets protected by law, information holders are obligated to reveal all other information. Taking this into consideration, we request that you answer the group of questions below:

- When will this organ be created?

- What will it depend on (or answer to)?
- What its role and duties be exactly?
- Is there any danger for free speech on the Web ?

Thanks in advance.

Respectfully,

**Emin Huseynov**

Chairman of the Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety

**Robert Ménard**

Reporters Without Border Secretary general

**Date: 29 July 2008**