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PRESS RELEASE

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**Statement By US Ambassador Reno Harnish On The First Anniversary Of The
Killing Of Elmar Huseynov**

One year ago today Azerbaijan lost one of its leading champions of media freedom in a tragic murder that shocked and saddened us all. Elmar Huseynov was a courageous and talented journalist, and an outspoken voice for democracy in Azerbaijan. His magazine, *The Monitor*, was a vital contributor to the public dialogue about Azerbaijan's direction and future. We continue to miss his passion, dedication, and strength.

On behalf of the United States, I extend my condolences to Roshana Huseynova and the entire Huseynov family. On this, the first anniversary of Elmar's death, let us all recommit ourselves to the values he so eloquently articulated: freedom of expression, human rights and the rule of law.

The U.S. Embassy urges the Azerbaijani government to continue and accelerate its investigation of Elmar Huseynov's murder and to bring his killer or killers to justice.