

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

May 5, 2023

Dear Mr. Mustafayev,

As you spend another birthday in prison, your bravery and resilience continues to inspire human rights defenders and journalists around the world.

As the Chairman of the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I am proud to join the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission's efforts to advocate for you and other unjustly detained Crimean journalists, helping to elevate awareness about your cases. Your efforts to highlight the political and religious persecution of Crimean Tatars and promote freedom of speech and freedom of the press in illegally occupied Crimea are a public service that amplified the plight of the Crimean Tatars from Sevastopol to Washington.

I commend your leadership of "Crimean Solidarity," including your essential reporting on violations of human rights in Crimea. Your peers have recognized you with the Free Speech award from the literary journal "Crimean Fig," noting your writing's commitment to liberty and the free spirits that pursue change.

I will continue to use my platform to ensure that your fight for freedom is never forgotten, and that your captors know that we stand with you during your illegal detention. When the challenges of detention feel insurmountable, please remember that you have friends in the global community who will speak out on your behalf.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez  
Chairman