

# SUPPORT COMMITTEE FOR THE RELEASE OF JIRAYR DER SEFILYAN

## THE FACTS

Jirayr der Sefilyan was born in 1967 in Beirut. In 1985, he completed his studies at the Gevork Chatalpachian National School. The civil war in Lebanon incited him to take part into the defence of the Armenian community. As soon as the conflict began in Artsakh, responding to the appeal in 1990, he arrived in Armenia as military instructor, taking part into the training of the self-defence detachments.

As from the first days and until the cessez-le feu in May 1994, he was involved in all self-defence missions in Artsakh (Karabagh). Then, he set up and commanded the "Shushi" special battalion as lieutenant-colonel, Chevalier of the order of the "War Cross", first degree.

Since 2001 up to now, residing permanently in Armenia, he has been the coordinator of the "Protection of Liberated Territories" organization. As from May 2006, he has been appointed Chairman of the Board of Directors of the "Arax-Kour" International Support Fund, then, he founded the « Union of Armenian Volunteers ».

Thus, on December 2006 the 4th, during a National Congress, the « Union of Armenian Volunteers » pronounced itself in favour of the total protection, without any cession, of the Artsakh liberated territories.

Since that, we have been informed that Commander Jirayr der Sefilyan was arrested by the Security Services of Armenia on Sunday December 2006 the 10th, while he was having lunch with his family, in particularly odious and violent conditions, as well as Vardan Malkhasyan, a member of the « Honour and Homeland » organization. The shock is all the more important among the Volunteers, that both of them had just made a common declaration regarding the protection of the Artsakh liberated territories.

We duly understand the political impact of a decision of the « Union of Volunteers » on the government strategy in relation with the next Armenian Parliament elections in 2007, but considering the risk of expulsion out of the motherland, at the end of December, of his wife, his mother, his two young children and himself as well, while he has devoted and goes on devoting his life to the achievement of the aspirations of the Armenian Nation ;

We invite all persons who feel concerned by Human Rights, by the respect of the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Armenia, by the sacrifice of a man for his people, to sign this petition to be sent to the highest Armenian authorities, at the following address : [postmaster@president.am](mailto:postmaster@president.am)

## PETITION

**I the undersigned,**

NAME : ..... Forename : .....  
Email : ..... Phone : .....

solicits from the President of the Republic of Armenia, Mr. Robert Kotcharian, to pronounce himself in favour of the Armenian naturalization of Jirayr der Sefilyan and of the release of Vardan Malkhasyan and Jirayr der Sefilyan.

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Email : [postmaster@president.am](mailto:postmaster@president.am) – Copy of the petition to be sent to [haybachdban@wanadoo.fr](mailto:haybachdban@wanadoo.fr)

**Head of Protocol of the Presidency : ARMEN GEVORKIAN,  (+374 10) 54.40.52**