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Russian Supreme Court cancels deportation order for Ali Feruz

On 24 January 2018, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation upheld the appeal of *Novaya Gazeta* journalist and Amnesty International activist Ali Feruz and overturned the 2017 decision by a lower court to deport him to Uzbekistan. The Court sent the case for further consideration to Moscow City Court.

While Amnesty International welcomes this decision, it continues to urge the Russian authorities to immediately release Ali Feruz and ensure he will not be deported to a country where he would be at real risk of torture.

In its decision, the Supreme Court noted that the detention of a foreign national pending expulsion from Russia “should not be understood as grounds for detaining them for an indefinite period”. Furthermore, the panel of judges recommended that during its re-examination of the case Moscow City Court take into consideration a letter from the German embassy in Moscow confirming that the federal authorities had granted Ali Feruz temporary residence in Germany.

Ali Feruz (whose real name is Khudoberdi Nurmatov) was detained in Moscow in August 2017, for supposedly violating the terms of his stay on the territory of the Russian Federation. The Basmannyi District Court of Moscow found him guilty, and held that he should be deported back to his home country. The journalist has been detained since then in the Special Facility for Temporary Detention of Foreign Citizens (SUVSIG) in Moscow.

Ali Feruz fled Uzbekistan in 2009 after being detained and tortured by officers of the Uzbekistani National Security Service for refusing to secretly collaborate with them. Ali Feruz has repeatedly applied for asylum in Russia, however, each time his requests were denied.

Amnesty International has been campaigning for many months for Ali Feruz to be immediately released from detention.

Public Document

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