URGENT ACTION

REFUGEE RETURNED TO UZBEKISTAN

On 20 September, Ruslan Suleymanov was returned to Uzbekistan by Ukrainian authorities. He is currently being kept in pre-trial detention in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan.

On 20 September, the Ukrainian authorities returned **Ruslan Suleymanov** to Uzbekistan, despite his well-founded fear of torture and an unfair trial. This is in violation of Ukraine's obligations as a state party to the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and under the UN Convention against Torture. Ruslan Suleymanov's lawyer told Amnesty International that on 19 September he was told to collect his belongings and prepare himself. Relatives have since informed his lawyer that he is in pre-trial detention in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan.

Ruslan Suleymanov was a manager of a private construction company in Uzbekistan when, in 2008, the company was targeted for takeover by rival business interests. When the company refused to hand over the shares, it was raided by security services and many of the company managers were investigated for economic crimes, including Ruslan Suleymanov. He moved to the Ukraine in November 2010, fearing an unfair trial and torture and other ill-treatment in Uzbekistan. He was detained on 25 February 2011. On 12 May 2011, the General Prosecutor's Office confirmed Ruslan Suleymanov's extradition to Uzbekistan to stand trial for alleged economic crimes, relating to his time at a construction company. His application for asylum in Ukraine was rejected, but the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recognized him as a refugee under the UNHCR mandate and had been seeking his resettlement.

No further action is requested at this time from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 265/12. Further information: http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR50/011/2012/en

Name: Ruslan Suleymanov
Gender m/f: m

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