

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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**Further information on UA 390/92 (EUR 62/04/92, 10 December 1992) - legal concern
(please note change of concern)**

UZBEKISTAN: Abdumannob PULATOV, human rights activist

(in cyrillic _____)

Amnesty International has learned that Abdumannob Pulatov is reportedly being held in an investigation-isolation prison in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. He has been charged with "infringement upon the honour and dignity of the President" (Article 191-4 part 2 of the Uzbekistan Criminal Code). Abdumannob Pulatov, a leading human rights activist from Uzbekistan was abducted in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 8 December 1992 reportedly by officers of the Uzbekistan National Security Service and there was grave concern for his safety.

The charge apparently relates to Abdumannob Pulatov's involvement with the newspaper Mustakil Khaftalik, which is produced in Moscow by the Uzbek opposition Birlik movement of which he is a member. According to reports, the charge specifically concerns the publication early in 1992 of a photograph in Mustakil Khaftalik. This showed student demonstrators in Tashkent carrying a banner on which was painted a caricature of Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov.

Amnesty International believes that article 191-4 of the Uzbekistan Criminal Code places unwarranted restrictions on the right to freedom of expression, and may be invoked to punish people for their peaceful political opposition to the authorities. Amnesty International believes that the arrest of Abdumannob Pulatov on this charge is a violation of his right to freedom of expression. Amnesty International considers Abdumannob Pulatov a prisoner of conscience and is calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters in Russian, English or in your own language:

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Abdumannob Pulatov.

APPEALS TO:

1. President of the Republic of Uzbekistan:
Respublika Uzbekistan
g. Tashkent
Apparat Prezidenta
Prezidentu Respubliki Uzbekistan

KARIMOVU I.A.

**Telegrams: Respublika Uzbekistan, g. Tashkent, Apparat Prezidenta,
Prezidentu KARIMOVU I.A.**

Telexes: 116343 MID SU; 116116 BAHOR SU

Salutation: Dear President Karimov

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2. Procurator-General of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

ulitsa Gogolya, 66

Prokuratura Respubliki Uzbekistan

Generalnomu Prokuroru MUSTAFOYEVU B.

**Telegrams: Respublika Uzbekistan, g. Tashkent, ulitsa Gogolya 66,
Prokuratura Respubliki, Prokuroru MUSTAFOYEVU B.**

Salutation: Dear Procurator General

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

Ministerstvo inostrannykh del

Respubliki Uzbekistan

Ministru ABDURAZZAKOVU U.

and to diplomatic representatives of Uzbekistan accredited to your country
(these are usually to be found at the Embassy of the Russian Federation, the
former Soviet Embassy).

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.