

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 62/18/99

19 August 1999

Further information on UA 34/99 (EUR 62/02/99, 25 February 1999) and follow-ups (EUR 62/03/99, 9 March 1999; EUR 62/16/99, 6 August 1999; EUR 62/17/99, 13 August 1999) - Fear for safety/alleged ill-treatment in detention/incommunicado detention

UZBEKISTAN Mamadali Makhmudov, writer

Mamadali Makhmudov has been sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment. The verdict was announced on 18 August 1999.

Of the five others who went on trial with him, Muhammad Bekzhon and Yusif Ruzimuradov were sentenced to 15 years, Rashid Bekzhon and Kobil Diyarov to 12 years and Negmat Sharipov to eight years. (See UA 48/99, EUR 50/01/99, 16 March 1999 and follow-ups, and UA 43/99, EUR 62/05/99, 9 March 1999 and follow-ups.) All six are to serve their sentences in a strict regime prison camp and will have their property confiscated.

Amnesty International has received a written statement signed by all six defendants on 18 August which reiterates earlier allegations that they were tortured and ill-treated in pre-trial detention in order to force them to incriminate Muhammad Salih, the exiled leader of the banned democratic opposition party *Erk*, and to confess to fabricated charges. They allege among other things that they were beaten with rubber truncheons and plastic bottles filled with water, suffocated, tortured with electric shocks and threatened with the rape of their wives.

Only five relatives were allowed into the courtroom to hear the verdict. Foreign observers, including representatives of the Organisation for Cooperation and Security in Europe (OSCE) and the US embassy, were again denied entry.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/e-mails/express/airmail letters in Russian, English or your own language:

- expressing grave concern at violations of fair trial rights in the case of Mamadali Makhmudov and his five co-defendants, in particular that the court did not take into account allegations that all of them were tortured in pre-trial detention to force them to confess;
- calling for a prompt and impartial investigation into the allegations of torture, with the results made public.

APPEALS TO:

President of Uzbekistan, Islam Abduganievich KARIMOV
700000 g. Tashkent, pr. Uzbekistansky, Rezidentsiya Prezidenta, Prezidentu Karimovu I. A., UZBEKISTAN

Telegrams: Prezidentu Karimovu, 700000 Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Faxes: + 998 71 139 5315

E-mails: uzinfo@uzinfo.gov.uz

Salutation: Dear President Karimov

The Oliy Majlis (Parliamentary) Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Sayora Rashidova

700008 g. Tashkent, pl. Mustakillik, 2, Oliy Majlis Respubliki Uzbekistan
Upolnomochenoy po pravam cheloveka pri Oliy Majlis Rashidovoy S., UZBEKISTAN
Telegrams: Upolnomochenoy po pravam cheloveka, 700008 Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Faxes:+ 998 71 139 8555
E-mails:mtillaboev@oliymajlis.gov.uz
Salutation:Dear Ms Rashidova

General Procurator of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Buritosh MUSTAFOYEV
700000 g. Tashkent, ul. Gogolya, 66, Prokuratura Respubliki Uzbekistan,
Generalnomu prokuroru MUSTAFOYEVU B., MUSTAFOYEV, UZBEKISTAN
Telegrams: Generalnomu prokuroru, 700000 Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Salutation: Dear Procurator General

Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Ubaydulla MINGBAYEV
700183 g. Tashkent, ul. Abdulla Kodiri, 1, Verkhovny Sud Respubliki Uzbekistan,
Predsedatelyu MINGBAYEVU U., UZBEKISTAN
Telegrams: Predsedatelyu Verkhovnogo Suda, 700183 Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Faxes: (998 71) 141 00 28
Salutation: Dear Chairman

COPIES TO:

Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Zakirzhan Almatovich
ALMATOV
700029 g. Tashkent, ul. Novruz, 1, Ministerstvo vnutrennikh del,
Ministru vnutrennikh del Almatovu Z.A., UZBEKISTAN
Telegrams:Ministru vnutrennikh del, 700029 Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Faxes:+ 998 71 133 89 34
Salutation:Dear Minister

Chairman of Tashkent Regional Court, name not known
700121 g. Tashkent, ul. Yakkasaray, 4, Tashkentskiy Oblastnoy Sud,
predsedatelyu, UZBEKISTAN
Telegrams:Tashkentskiy Oblastnoy Sud, 700121 Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Salutation:Dear Chairman

and to diplomatic representatives of Uzbekistan accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 September 1999.