

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 234/04 (EUR 62/014/2004, 30 July 2004) and follow-up (EUR 62/018/2004, 13 August 2004) - Fear of imminent execution/torture/ill-treatment

UZBEKISTAN

Ikram MUKHTAROV (m) aged 24

On 17 August, the judicial board of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan overturned the death sentence against Ikram Mukhtarov and referred his case for further investigation.

Ikram Mukhtarov was sentenced to death by Tashkent city court in May 2004 for murdering a man and woman in May 2001. The court reportedly ignored his claim that his "confession" to the murders was extracted under torture. However, on 19 July 2004, the United Nations Human Rights Committee appealed to the Uzbek authorities to stay Ikram Mukhtarov's execution while it considered the allegations that he received an unfair trial and was tortured in pre-trial detention.

The Uzbek non-governmental organization (NGO) Mothers Against the Death Penalty and Torture, which has been campaigning on Ikram Mukhtarov's behalf, believes that international pressure, including appeals by members of the Urgent Action network have played a crucial role in getting his case re-examined.

No further action is required from the UA Network. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.