

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UZBEKISTAN: APPEAL CASES

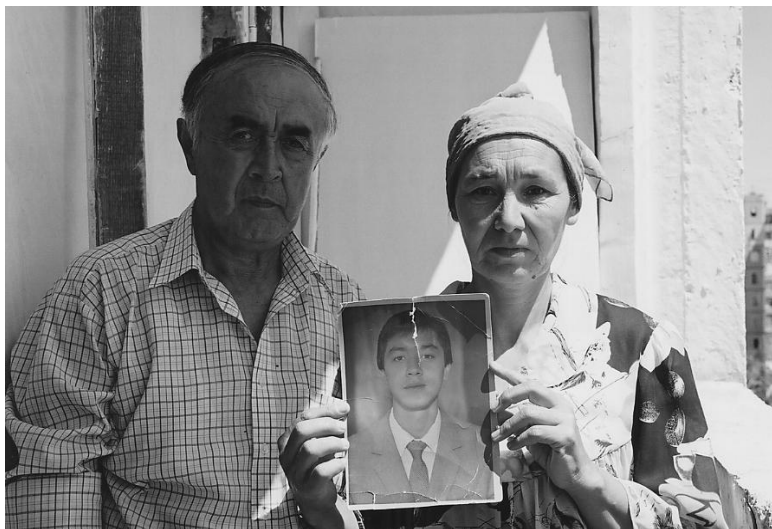
23 August 2002<sup>1</sup>; AI Index: EUR 62/011/2002; public

## Alive or executed?

**Allanazar KURBANOV (born 1970)  
and Yusupbay SULTANOV (born 1953)**

The families of two men who were sentenced to death last year - Allanazar Kurbanov and Yusupbay Sultanov - do not know whether their loved ones are still alive or have been executed. Amnesty International is calling on the authorities to give the families the information they desperately seek and, if the men are still alive, to commute their death sentences.

In an interview with Amnesty International on 11 July 2002 Allanazar Kurbanov's father said: 'We want to find out the truth. We are getting contradictory signs from the authorities, but nothing definite. We will not give up to find out what happened.'



Allanazar Kurbanov's parents with a picture of their son.  
AI

The two men were sentenced to death by Khorezm Regional Court on 11 August 2001. Appeals against the death sentences were turned down by the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan on 13 December 2001.

Family members and Allanazar Kurbanov's lawyer maintain that the men were forced to confess to the February 2001 murder of six members of the Abdullayev family in the region of Khorezm by means of torture and psychological pressure. Police at Hazarapsky District police station in the region of Khorezm reportedly tortured Allanazar Kurbanov following his detention at the beginning of March 2001, including by placing a bag over his head, handcuffing him, and then kicking him and burning his fingertips. In a letter from prison of 27 December 2001 Allanazar Kurbanov described how a senior policeman ill-treated him: 'He shouted I should kiss the ground and then he hit me several times on my neck. I was lying on my stomach and nearly lost consciousness because of the terrible pain, but I repeated that I didn't kill anybody. Then he ordered the other policemen to force me to confess within three days.' There were allegations that Allanazar Kurbanov's wife was summoned to the police station together with the couple's baby, and that policemen held their four-months old son upside down holding him by one of his legs and then poured cold water over his face. Four policemen reportedly beat his wife

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<sup>1</sup> Please send appeals until 10 October 2002.

in an office next door to where Allanazar Kurbanov was kept, with the door left open so that he could hear her cry.

Since Allanazar Kurbanov and Yusupbay Sultanov were transferred to Tashkent prison in February 2002 their families have not heard anything from them. When Allanazar Kurbanov's parents subsequently inquired about their son's whereabouts at Khorezm Regional Court, the chairman of the court reportedly informed them that their son had already been shot and that they could get a written confirmation at their local registration office. However, at the registration office they were told that they did not have any information about his death. Following a complaint, his parents were reportedly received by an advisor of the President on 4 April 2002. A procuracy official, who was present at the meeting, reportedly said that their son might still be alive and that he would look into the case. The Clemency Commission at the office of the President reportedly also promised them that it would reconsider his case. However, the family is still waiting for any news.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In October 2001 the *Oliy Majlis* (parliament) reduced the number of offences punishable by death from eight to four. Premeditated aggravated murder is among those crimes which remain punishable by death.

In 1998 the Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights in Uzbekistan, Sayora Rashidova, had informed Amnesty International that moves to reduce the number of articles in the Uzbek Criminal Code carrying a possible death sentence were part of Uzbekistan's policy to "abolish the death penalty by stages". This latest reduction appears to be part of this policy. However, Amnesty International has continued to receive a large number of reports of new death sentences. In September 2001 President Karimov publicly stated that around 100 people were executed in Uzbekistan each year.

As information on the death penalty is considered a state secret, no comprehensive statistics on the number of those sentenced to death and executed are made public. Due to this secrecy families often do not know whether their relatives are still alive or have already been executed. The United Nations (UN) Committee against Torture asked the Uzbek government delegation for death penalty figures at its November 1999 session, but did not receive them. In its concluding observations to its March 2001 session the UN Human Rights Committee "deplore[d] the State party's refusal to reveal the number of persons who have been executed or condemned to death, and the grounds for their conviction" and asked Uzbekistan once again to provide the Committee with such information as soon as possible.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, Russian, Uzbek or your own language**

- expressing concern that Yusupbay Sultanov and Allanazar Kurbanov were sentenced to death by Khorezm Regional Court on 11 August 2001;
- expressing concern at reports that Yusupbay Sultanov and Allanazar Kurbanov's families have not been officially informed whether their loved ones are alive or have been executed;
- urging the authorities to inform you whether Yusupbay Sultanov and Allanazar Kurbanov have been executed and if so, when;
- if they are still alive, urging the President to use his constitutional authority to commute the death sentences passed on Yusupbay Sultanov and Allanazar Kurbanov, as well as all other death sentences that come before him;
- urging the authorities to open a comprehensive and impartial investigation into allegations that Yusupbay Sultanov, Allanazar Kurbanov, his wife and their four-months old son were ill-treated by police in pre-trial detention, for the results to be made public and anyone reasonably suspected of being responsible to be brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to end the secrecy around information about the death penalty in Uzbekistan, including by publishing comprehensive statistics about death sentences and executions in Uzbekistan, in line with Recommendation 7 of the United Nations Human Rights Committee on 4 April 2001.

**WHOM TO WRITE TO:**

*Please note that it may be difficult to send faxes. If a voice answers during office hours, repeat 'fax' until connected; fax machines may be switched off outside office hours -five hours ahead of GMT*

President, Islam Abduganiyevich KARIMOV

Respublika Uzbekistan; 700163 g. Tashkent; ul. Uzbekistanskaya, 43; Rezidentsia prezidenta;

Prezidentu Respubliki Uzbekistan; KARIMOVU I.A., UZBEKISTAN

**Faxes:** + 998 71 - 2 89 00 46 (Write on the top of your fax: "Tel.: 139 53 75; 139 82 60; 139 59 29; Prezidentu Respubliki Uzbekistan; KARIMOVU I.A.")

**Telegrams:** Prezidentu Karimovu, 700163 Tashkent, Uzbekistan

**e-mails:** [uzinfo@uzinfo.gov.uz](mailto:uzinfo@uzinfo.gov.uz) (if your e-mail bounces back, please fax it if possible)

**Salutation:** Dear President Karimov,

Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights, Sayora RASHIDOVA (Ms)

Respublika Uzbekistan; 700035 g. Tashkent; ul. Xalqlar Do'stligi, 1; Oliy Majlis Respubliki Uzbekistan; Upolnomochennoy po pravam cheloveka pri Oliy Majlis; RASHIDOVOY S., UZBEKISTAN

**Telegrams:** Ombudsmenu, 700035 Tashkent, Uzbekistan

**E-mails:** [ombudsman@uzpak.uz](mailto:ombudsman@uzpak.uz) or: [office@ombudsman.gov.uz](mailto:office@ombudsman.gov.uz)

**Salutation:** Dear Sayora Rashidova,

General Procurator, Rashidjon Hamidovich KODIROV

Respublika Uzbekistan; 700047 g. Tashkent; ul. Gulyamova, 66; Prokuratura Respubliki Uzbekistan;

Generalnomu prokuroru; KODIROVU R. Kh., UZBEKISTAN

**Telegrams:** Generalnomu prokuroru, 700047 Tashkent, Uzbekistan

**Fax:** + 998 71 133 99 36

**Salutation:** Dear Procurator General

**COPIES TO:**

Chairman of the Supreme Court, I.I. Ishmetov

Respublika Uzbekistan; 700183 g. Tashkent; ul. Abdulla Kodiri, 1; Verkhovny Sud Respubliki Uzbekistan; Predsedatelyu ISHMETOVU I.; UZBEKISTAN

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdulaziz Khafizovich KOMILOV

Respublika Uzbekistan; 700029 g. Tashkent; pl. Mustakillik, 5; Ministerstvo inostrannykh del

Respubliki Uzbekistan; Ministru KOMILOVU A.Kh., UZBEKISTAN

and to diplomatic representatives of UZBEKISTAN accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND ANY REPLIES FROM THE UZBEK AUTHORITIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. (South Caucasus and Central Asia Research and Campaign Team; Amnesty International; 1 Easton Street; London WC1 X ODW; United Kingdom)**