

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 62/008/2001

5 July 2001

Further information on EXTRA 68/00, (AI Index: EUR 62/20/00, 15 August 2000)
- imminent execution/ill-treatment in custody

UZBEKISTAN Marat Rakhmanov

Amnesty International has just been informed that Marat Rakhmanov's death sentence was commuted to 15 years' imprisonment by a ruling of the Presidium of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan on 24 April 2001.

Marat Rakhmanov had been sentenced to death for premeditated, aggravated murder. According to his lawyer he was severely beaten by police while in custody awaiting trial and alleged that he only confessed under torture.

Marat Rakhmanov's sister, Mayra, accompanied by a member of the Russian embassy in Uzbekistan, went to visit him in the prison colony in Namangan to which he was transferred. She told Amnesty International on 29 June that Marat had not been informed by the authorities that his death sentence had been commuted. "They took him out of prison and didn't tell him anything. He thought he was taken to be shot. Only once he had arrived in the colony in Namangan, the other prisoners told him where he was and he understood that he might have been granted clemency... He said: I feel as if I was born a second time." Mayra Rakhmanova said that her brother is still suffering from the severe beatings he sustained at the time of his arrest. "He lost a lot of weight, but emotionally, he is a lot more stable now. He is making plans again."

"I am very grateful to you. You saved my brother's life...if you hadn't helped, they would have shot him long ago...When I received your Urgent Action, I made a lot of photocopies and distributed them, gave them to everybody I asked for help." Among those that went out of their way to help, Mayra Rakhmanova said, were the Russian ambassador and his wife, the press secretary of the Russian embassy and Tamara Chikunova, the mother of Dmitry Chikunov, who was executed in July 2000 (see UA 184/00 AI Index: EUR 62/13/00, 28 June 2000 and Further information, AI Index: EUR 62/18/00, 13 July 2000).

Mayra Rakhmanova sent the following fax on 30 June:

"We thank you and all the members of Amnesty International for their help and support and for the life of M. Zh. Rakhmanov, born 1973. Your help has been priceless and our gratitude to you is immense. You helped to preserve my brother's life.

We wish you good health and success in your difficult, but necessary struggle.

We thank God that in such difficult and frightening times we received the support of such wonderful people.

We are eternally indebted to you because life has no price."

Amnesty International does not know any more about the other people named in the original EXTRA.

NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUESTED FROM THE URGENT ACTION NETWORK. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT APPEALS. Those who wish to do so may send a final round of telegrams/faxes/express/ airmail letters in Russian, English, Uzbek or in your own language:

- welcoming the decision of the Presidium of the Supreme Court to reverse the death sentence on Marat Rakhmanov;

- urging that a moratorium be imposed on death sentences and executions pending a comprehensive review of the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

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Prezidentu Respubliki Uzbekistan
KARIMOVU I.A.
UZBEKISTAN

Telegrams: Prezidentu Karimovu, 700163 Tashkent, Uzbekistan

e-mails: uzinfo@uzinfo.gov.uz

Salutation: Dear President Karimov

Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Respublika Uzbekistan
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Verkhovny Sud Respubliki Uzbekistan
Predsedatelyu MINGBAYEVU U.
UZBEKISTAN

Telegrams: Mingbayevu U., Verkhovny sud, 700183 Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Salutation: Dear Mr. Mingbayev

COPIES TO:

Oliy Majlis Commissioner for Human Rights

Respublika Uzbekistan
700008 g. Tashkent
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and to diplomatic representatives of Uzbekistan accredited to your country.