

PUBLIC

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9 May 2000

Further information on EXTRA 178/99 (EUR 62/29/99, 14 December 1999) and follow-ups (EUR 62/30/99, 21 December 1999; EUR 62/15/00, 19 April 2000) - Death penalty/Possible imminent execution

UZBEKISTAN Arsen Albertovich ARUTYUNYAN (_____), aged 20
Danis Vladimirovich SIRAZHEV (_____), aged 24

Danis Sirazhev's death sentence has been commuted to 15 years' imprisonment, according to unofficial sources. Arsen Arutyunyan had his death sentence commuted in the same way in March.

The two men were transferred from their death cell in a prison in Tashkent to a prison colony in the town of Andizhan last week.

The families of the two men thank you all for your work. Arsen Arutyunyan's sister writes: "Had it not been for the work of your organization, your approaches to the media, your persistent work, we couldn't have hoped for a good outcome. When I first turned to you, my whole family and I were desperate and, to tell the truth, didn't think that anything or anybody could help. But the miracle came true, a miracle worked not by God but by people. My brother Arsen learnt of the decision through his lawyer and couldn't believe it. It took 15 minutes for him to realise that he would stay alive. He kept repeating 'I'll live,' and 'I'm going to write new songs.'"

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 or your own language:

- welcoming the reversal of the death sentences imposed on Danis Sirazhev and Arsen Arutyunyan;
- asking the authorities to send an official confirmation of the reversal of Danis Sirazhev's death sentence;
- urging that a moratorium be imposed on death sentences and executions pending a comprehensive review of the death penalty.

APPEALS TO: (Please note that fax numbers can be difficult to obtain. If a voice answers, repeat "fax" until connected)

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Respublika Uzbekistan

700163 g. Tashkent

ul. Uzbekistanskaya, 43

Rezidentsia prezidenta

Prezidentu Respubliki Uzbekistan

KARIMOVU I.A.

UZBEKISTAN

Telegrams: Prezidentu Karimovu, 700163 Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Faxes: + 998 71 139 53 15 / 139 53 25

e-mails: uzinfo@uzinfo.gov.uz

Salutation: Dear President Karimov

Head of the Clemency Department at the President's Office

Respublika Uzbekistan

700000 g. Tashkent

Apparat Prezidenta

Respubliki Uzbekistan
Otdel po voprosam pomilovaniya
Zaveduyushchemu otdelom
AKHMANOVU N.
UZBEKISTAN

Telegrams: Akhmanovu N., Otdel pomilovaniya, 700000 Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Salutation: Dear Mr Akhmanov

Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Respublika Uzbekistan
700183 g. Tashkent
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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

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and to diplomatic representatives of Uzbekistan accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.