

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 62/30/99

21 December 1999

**Further information on EXTRA 178/99 (EUR 62/29/99, 14 December 1999) - Death Penalty / Possible imminent execution**

**UZBEKISTAN**Arsen Albertovich ARUTYUNYAN, aged 20  
Danis Vladimirovich SIRAZHEV, aged 24

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On 20 December 1999, the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan turned down Arsen Arutyunyan and Danis Sirazhev's appeal against their death sentences. Although they will now appeal to the Presidium of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan, Amnesty International is concerned that this could mean that their execution will take place very soon.

According to reliable sources the two lawyers of the young men did not have access to the 100-page handwritten material for the hearing until 15 minutes before the start of the trial. Only the two lawyers and the family of Laylo Aliyeva, the murder victim, were allowed in the courtroom during the hearing by the Collegium of the Supreme Court.

The two men were charged with the April 1998 killing of the famous Uzbek singer, Laylo Aliyeva, and sentenced to death on 3 November 1999. Although they confessed to killing her, the organization is seriously concerned that their confessions were extracted under duress. In addition, Arsen Arutyunyan's family have apparently been threatened, including an attempted assault on his sister, forcing some of them to flee the country.

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

- urging the President to use his constitutional authority to commute the death sentences passed on Arsen Arutyunyan and Danis Sirazhev, as well as all other death sentences that come before him;
- urging that a moratorium be imposed on death sentences and executions pending a comprehensive review of the death penalty;
- expressing concern at allegations that Arsen Arutyunyan's and Danis Sirazhev's confessions were extracted under duress and asking the authorities to launch an independent and impartial investigation into these allegations;
- asking for assurances that the safety of both men's families be guaranteed.

**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  
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Rezidentsia prezidenta  
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KARIMOVU I.A.

**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  
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Otdel po voprosam pomilovaniya  
Zaveduyushchemu otdelom  
AKHMANOVU N.

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

**COPIES TO:**

Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan  
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and to diplomatic representatives of Uzbekistan accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**