

EXTERNAL

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"Disappearance"

29 September 1995

UZBEKISTANAbduvali MIRZOYEV, Islamic preacher

( \_\_\_\_\_ in cyrillic)

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Abduvali Mirzoyev, an Islamic religious leader, is feared to have "disappeared" since he was detained on 29 August 1995. Unofficial sources report that he was detained apparently by officers of the National Security Service at the airport in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, as he was waiting to board an international flight - he was reportedly en route to London at the invitation of an Islamic organization based in the United Kingdom. Despite inquiries to officials by his family and supporters there has been no news of his whereabouts since then.

Abduvali Mirzoyev is *Imam-khatib* (prayer leader) at the central *madrasa* (Islamic school) in Andizhan region, eastern Uzbekistan. He is said to enjoy great popularity and influence throughout the Fergana valley (an area of Central Asia divided between Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tadzhikistan where there has been a significant Islamic revival in recent years). Since his "disappearance" hundreds of his supporters are reported to have rallied outside the mosque in Andizhan calling on the authorities to disclose information about Abduvali Mirzoyev's fate. There are unconfirmed reports that some 35 people were arrested after trying to organize a protest march from Andizhan to Tashkent on behalf of Abduvali Mirzoyev.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Islam is the majority religion in Uzbekistan. The "disappearance" of Abduvali Mirzoyev may be the latest indication of what unofficial sources have characterized as a clampdown by the authorities against Muslim congregations which are outside state control.

Amnesty International knows of one other case where a Muslim leader is feared to have "disappeared" in Uzbekistan. Abdullo Utayev, leader of the unregistered Islamic Renaissance Party of Uzbekistan, has been missing since he was detained apparently by government agents near his Tashkent home in December 1992. In response to persistent inquiries by Amnesty International the authorities have denied holding him.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English, Russian or your own language:**

- calling on the authorities to clarify the whereabouts of Abduvali Mirzoyev, and to release him immediately if he is not to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence;
- calling on the authorities to guarantee the physical safety and well being of Abduvali Mirzoyev, pointing out that the victims of "disappearance" are especially vulnerable to torture or extrajudicial execution;
- calling on the authorities to release from custody immediately and unconditionally any person detained for attempting to organize or for taking part in peaceful protests against the "disappearance" of Abduvali Mirzoyev.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

1) The President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov  
 Respublika Uzbekistan  
 700000 g. Tashkent  
 prospekt Uzbekistansky  
 Rezidentsia prezidenta  
 Prezidentu Karimovu

**Telegrams: Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Rezidentsia prezidenta, Prezidentu Karimovu I.A.**

Faxes: +7 3712 39 55 25 or +7 3712 39 54 00  
Telexes: 116116 BAHOR SU  
Salutation: Dear President Karimov

2) Chairman of the National Security Service, Rustam Inoyatov

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

Natsionalnaya sluzhba bezopasnosti

Predsedatelyu Inoyatovu

**Telegrams: Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Nats. sluzhba bezopasnosti, Predsedatelyu Inoyatovu R.**

**Salutation: Dear Chairman**

3. Procurator General of Uzbekistan, Buritosh Mustafoyev

Respublika Uzbekistan

700000 g. Tashkent

ul. Gogolya, 66

Prokuratura Respubliki Uzbekistan

Generalnomu prokuroru Mustafoyevu B.

**Telegrams: Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Prokuratura, Gen.prokuroru Mustafoyevu B.**

**Salutation: Dear Procurator General**

**COPIES TO:**

Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, Abdulaziz Komilov

Respublika Uzbekistan

700029 g. Tashkent

pl. Mustakillik, 5

MID

Ministru Komilovu A.

**Faxes: +7 3712 39 43 48 or +7 3712 39 15 45 or +7 3712 39 18 17**

and to diplomatic representatives of Uzbekistan accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 10 November 1995.