

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 62/08/94  
Distr: UA/SC

UA 89/94 Fear of imminent execution

4 March 1994

UZBEKISTAN

Abdurakhmon (Rakhmon) AKHATOV  
Abdukhamid KHAKIMOV  
Alisher OBIDOV

in cyrillic

\_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

---

Amnesty International fears that Abdurakhmon (Rakhmon) Akhatov, Abdukhamid Khakimov and Alisher Obidov face imminent execution after having been sentenced to death in the former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan. Their case was tried in the Supreme Court acting as court of first instance, so they have no right to appeal against the verdict. Although they have the right to petition to the President for clemency, to Amnesty International's knowledge the carrying out of a death sentence is not automatically suspended while such petitions are under consideration.

Rakhmon Akhatov and Abdukhamid Khakimov, who are brothers, and Alisher Obidov come from the city of Samarkand. They were sentenced to death by the criminal cases collegium of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan in Tashkent, the capital, on 27 January 1994, after a trial lasting 10 months. They were convicted of banditry and murder. Nine other defendants were sentenced to imprisonment.

All the defendants consistently protested their innocence of the charges against them. In the case of Abdukhamid Khakimov, who is a certified paranoid schizophrenic, it has been alleged that after his arrest in 1991 police exploited his mental illness to pressure him into confessing to an unsolved murder dating from 1987, and into making accusations against others. It has also been alleged that defendants in the case were severely beaten while in pre-trial detention in order to try to extract confessions from them: Rakhmon Akhatov is said to have suffered broken ribs as a result.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan retains the death penalty for 19 peacetime offences. However, senior officials told an Amnesty International delegation which visited Uzbekistan in April 1992 that regulations introduced in December 1991 reduced the number of offences which in practice still carry the death penalty to four: treason; murder under aggravating circumstances; murder of a minor; and aggravated rape. Execution is by shooting. The Minister of Justice told Amnesty International that the use of the death penalty in Uzbekistan was declining, but he was unable to provide the delegation with statistics.

Amnesty International has consistently pressed the Uzbek authorities to reduce the scope of the death penalty as a step towards total abolition; to impose a moratorium on death sentences and executions pending a review of this punishment; and to publish comprehensive statistics on the application of the death penalty.

Besides the three men featured in this Urgent Action, from unofficial sources Amnesty International currently knows of five other pending death sentences in Uzbekistan.

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

- expressing concern that Abdurakhmon Akhatov, Abdukhamid Khakimov and Alisher Obidov have been sentenced to death in Uzbekistan;
- urging President Islam Karimov to grant clemency to Abdurakhmon Akhatov, Abdukhamid Khakimov and Alisher Obidov, and to commute the death sentences;
- urging that everyone sentenced to death in the Republic of Uzbekistan be granted the opportunity to appeal to a court of higher jurisdiction, in accordance with internationally agreed human rights standards;
- urging President Karimov to commute all other death sentences that come before him.

**APPEALS TO:**

The President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov:

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

pl. Mustakillik

Apparat prezidenta

Prezidentu Karimovu I.

**Telegrams:Uzbekistan, Tashkent, apparat prezidenta, Prezidentu Karimovu I.**

**Faxes:+ 7 3712 39 55 25 or + 7 3712 39 54 00**

**Salutation:Dear President Karimov**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Chairman of the Clemency Commission of the Uzbekistan Supreme Soviet, Pulatov (first name unknown):

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

Verkhovny Sovet Respubliki Uzbekistan

Komissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya

Predsedatelyu Pulatovu

Chairman of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan, Ubaydulla Mingbayev:

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

ul. Kodiri, 1

Verkhovny Sud Respubliki Uzbekistan

Predsedatelyu Mingbayevu U.

Procurator General of Uzbekistan, Buritosh Mustafojev:

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

ul. Gogolya, 66

Prokuratura Respubliki Uzbekistan

Generalnomu Prokuroru Mustafojevu B.

Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, Saidmukhtar Saidkasymov

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

Ministerstvo inostrannykh del

Ministru Saidkasymovu S.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 April 1994.