

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear for safety

7 June 1994

UZBEKISTAN

Khamidulla NURMUKHAMEDOV (\_\_\_\_\_)  
and other members of the *Erk* (Freedom) party

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On 27 May 1994 a bomb exploded at the home in Tashkent, the capital, of Khamidulla Nurmukhamedov, a leading member of the outlawed opposition party *Erk* (Freedom). Fortunately, although Khamidulla Nurmukhamedov and members of his family were at home at the time, no one was hurt.

This incident bears similarities to the 1992 bombing of the Tashkent home of another opposition activist in circumstances suggesting the involvement of government agents. In view of the major country-wide official clampdown against *Erk* which has been going on since early March 1994, Amnesty International fears that the attack on Khamidulla Nurmukhamedov's home may have been carried out on government orders as part of that clampdown. The organization fears that there may be further attacks against him or other *Erk* members, and is calling for a full investigation into the bomb attack, and for the authorities to immediately stop the harassment and persecution of *Erk* party members.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The ruling party in Uzbekistan is the People's Democratic Party, the former Communist Party. The Freedom Democratic Party - *Erk* - was founded in April 1990, and was officially registered as Uzbekistan's first opposition political party in September 1991. It claims a nationwide registered membership of 54,000.

During 1992 *Erk* took an increasingly radical opposition stance in the face of harassment from the authorities. Since October 1993 *Erk* has been effectively banned after failing to meet the terms of a decree requiring all political organizations to re-register. During 1994, there has been a major official clampdown against the party involving widespread arrests, apparently in an attempt to stop the extensive clandestine distribution of the banned *Erk* newspaper. Khamidulla Nurmukhamedov, who is a secretary of the *Erk* central committee, was among a group of leading party members arrested at the beginning of March in connection with possession of copies of the newspaper. He was released after a few days, but other *Erk* members who have been arrested in the continuing clampdown remain in detention.

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

- calling for a full investigation into the bomb attack on the home of Khamidulla Nurmukhamedov, and for those responsible to be brought to justice.
- calling on the authorities in Uzbekistan to put a stop immediately to all forms of harassment and persecution, including arrest, of members of the *Erk* party who have sought peacefully to exercise their fundamental human rights, and to guarantee their physical safety and well-being.

#### APPEALS TO

1. The President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov  
Respublika Uzbekistan  
g. Tashkent  
pl. Mustakillik

Apparat Prezidenta  
Prezidentu Karimovu

**Telegrams:Uzbekistan, Tashkent, apparat Prezidenta, Prezidentu Karimovu I.A.**

**Faxes:+ 7 3712 39 55 25 or + 7 3712 39 54 00 or + 7 3712 55 10**

**Telexes:116116 BAHOR SU**

**Salutation: Dear President Karimov**

2. Minister of Internal Affairs, Zakirzhan Almatov

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

ul. G. Lopatina, 1

MVD Respubliki Uzbekistan

Ministru Almatovu Z.A.

**Telegrams:Uzbekistan, Tashkent, MVD, Ministru Almatovu Z.A.**

**Salutation:Dear Minister**

3. Procurator General of Uzbekistan, Buritosh Mustafojev

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

ul. Gogolya, 66

Prokuratura Respubliki Uzbekistan

Generalnomu prokuroru Mustafojevu B.

**Telegrams:Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Prokuratura, Generalnomu prokuroru  
Mustafojevu B.**

**Salutation:Dear Procurator General**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, Saidmukhtar Saidkasymov

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

Ministerstvo inostrannykh del

Ministru Safayevu S.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 19 July 1994.