

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Imminent Execution

22 June 1993

UZBEKISTAN:

Venera KASYMOVA (female)

(in cyrillic _____)

Amnesty International fears that Venera Kasymova faces imminent execution after having been sentenced to death in the former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan.

The limited information currently available to Amnesty International about Venera Kasymova's case suggests that an appeal against her sentence to the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan has been turned down, in which case her only hope of avoiding execution is a petition for clemency to the President of Uzbekistan.

Venera Kasymova is the mother of two small children. No information is currently available about the crime for which she was sentenced to death, nor about where or when her trial took place.

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.

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 urged the Uzbek authorities to publish comprehensive statistics on the application of the death penalty, pointing out the agreement on the publication of official death penalty statistics by participating states of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), which Uzbekistan joined in January 1992.

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

- expressing concern about reports that Venera Kasymova has been sentenced to death in Uzbekistan;

- urging President Islam Karimov to grant clemency to Venera Kasymova, and to commute the death sentence;

- 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

Dom pravitelstva

Prezidentu Karimovu I.

**Telegrams:Uzbekistan, Tashkent, dom pravitelstva,
Prezidentu Karimovu I.**

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

Salutation:Dear President Karimov

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1. 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

2. Chairman of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan, Ubaydulla
Mingbayev:

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

ul. Kodiri, 1

Verkhovny Sud Respubliki Uzbekistan

Predsedatelyu Mingbayevu U.

3. Procurator General of Uzbekistan, Buritosh Mustafoyev:

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

ul. Gogolya, 66

Prokuratura Respubliki Uzbekistan

Generalnomu Prokuroru Mustafoyevu B.

4. Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, Sadyk Safayev

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

Ministerstvo inostrannykh del

Ministru Safayevu S.

Telexes 116116 BAHOR SU

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 3 August 1993.