

URGENT ACTION

TAJIKISTANI NATIONALS RISK ABDUCTION IN RUSSIA

A Tajikistani national who is due to be released from detention is at risk of abduction in Russia and forcible return to Tajikistan. Another Tajikistani national is believed to have been abducted and forcibly returned to Tajikistan following his recent release from detention. Both men are at risk of torture, unfair trial, and other human rights violations in Tajikistan.

Asylum seeker **Ismon Azimov** is currently in detention and due to be released on 2 November. There are fears he may be at imminent risk of abduction by Tajikistani security services after his release and returned to Tajikistan where he would be at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

Another asylum seeker, **Abdulvosi Latipov**, is believed to have been abducted upon his release from a detention facility in Volgograd, Russia in October 2012. It is believed he has been forcibly returned to Tajikistan. In both cases, the European Court on Human rights (ECHR) has issued interim measures under Rule 39 which require the Russian Federation to refrain from deporting these men until their cases have been fully considered by the ECHR.

These concerns come amid an emerging pattern of disappearance of Tajikistani asylum-seekers in Russia, many of whom are reportedly abducted by Tajikistani security services, and who have 're-appeared' in Tajikistan shortly afterwards. Many of them have reported that they were ill-treated whilst in detention upon their return.

Please write immediately in Russian, English or your own language:

- Urging the Russian authorities to promptly, impartially and effectively investigate the disappearance of Abdulvosi Latipov in October 2012;
- Expressing concern for the safety of Ismon Azimov, who risks being targeted by Tajikistani security services on Russian territory, and urging the Russian authorities to ensure his safety following his projected release on 2 November;
- Calling on the Russian authorities to ensure that no asylum-seekers who face risk of torture and other ill-treatment in Tajikistan are forcibly returned;
- Reminding the Russian authorities of their obligation under international human rights law not to deport or extradite any person to a country where they are at risk of torture and/or other ill-treatment.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 13 DECEMBER 2012 TO:

Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation

Yurii Ya. Chaika
Bolshaia Dmitrovka 15 A
Moscow
125993
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 495 987 58 41

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

Third department on CIS countries
M. A. Peshkov - Director
Ul. Smolenskaya-Sennaia pl, 32/34
119200 Moscow
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 499 241 21 75
E-mail: 3dsng@mid.ru

Salutation: Dear Director

And copies to:

President of the Russian Federation
Vladimir V. Putin
Ul. Ilyinka, 23
103132 Moscow
Russian Federation
Fax: + 7 495 910 2134

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 214/11. Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR46/029/2011/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International has repeatedly expressed concerns at the recurrence in recent years of incidents where Tajikistani asylum-seekers in Russia have been allegedly abducted and forcibly returned to Tajikistan.

Savridin Juraev was released from detention in Russia on 20 May 2011 and reportedly abducted on 31 October 2011. On 1 November 2011 he reportedly flew from a Moscow airport to Tajikistan without possessing a passport - he had only a temporary asylum certificate with him. On 19 April 2012 he was sentenced to a 26-year prison term but he maintains his innocence. He has also reported being tortured and ill-treated while in detention.

Another Tajikistani national, Nizomkhon Juraev, disappeared upon his release from temporary detention in Russia on 29 March 2012 and 're-appeared' days later in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, while his case was pending hearing before the European Court on Human Rights. Anna Stavitskaya, the Russian lawyer who has taken Nizomkhon Juraev's case to the European Court of Human Rights, stated that she doubted that Juraev had returned voluntarily since he had been fighting his return to Tajikistan, where he was at risk of torture or other ill-treatment. Moreover, his lawyer stated that she still had his passport. Without his passport or sufficient funds it would have been extremely difficult, if not impossible, for Nizomkhon Juraev to travel back to Tajikistan.

The Russian Federation is bound by minimum requirements set out in the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR) and other binding international standards, and should uphold the rights of asylum-seekers and irregular migrants accordingly and in good faith. In particular, the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment, enshrined in Article 3 of the ECHR, requires that no-one should be removed to a country or territory if there are substantial grounds for believing that upon removal they will face a real risk of torture or other inhuman or degrading treatment. Article 13 provides for the right for an effective remedy before national authorities for violations of rights under the Convention.

Name: Ismon Asimov, Abdulvosi Latipov

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 214/11 Index: EUR 46/042/2012 Issue Date: 1 November 2012