

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 17/002/2001

11 January 2001

Further information on UA 318/99 (ASA 17/63/99, 14 December 1999) - Fear of imminent execution / torture / ill-treatment / unfair trial

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA Jur'at Nuri, age 27
Abduhalik Abdureshit, age 24
Nine others

The two young Uighur men named above were executed on 9 January 2001, nearly 18 months after being sentenced to death for alleged opposition activities in China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region.

Amnesty International has received independent confirmation of press reports of the executions. Neither man had been convicted of any act of violence.

As in previous years, in what is a pattern throughout China, the authorities appear to be "clearing up" outstanding cases and increasing the number of executions before Chinese New Year (24 January 2001).

The executions took place in Gulja (Yining) city after an unexplained delay of nearly 18 months, during which the high court considered the men's appeals against their death sentences. They had been sentenced to death in July 1999 on charges of "splittism" and "illegally carrying and keeping arms, ammunition and explosives". Nine other defendants tried at the same time received various terms of imprisonment.

Official documentation received by Amnesty International shows that the accusations against the men were largely unfounded, and that the sentences were passed after grossly unfair judicial proceedings, based on confessions extracted under torture.

At the trial Abduhalik Abdureshit is reported to have said that anybody who had been tortured as severely as he had would have confessed to anything, and that not even a dog could tolerate the torture he had endured.

Relatives were not informed of the trial and only heard about the sentences through unofficial channels three days before the final date for appeal. Jur'at Nuri and Abduhalik Abdureshit are known to have appealed against their sentences and it would appear that it took more than a year for a higher court to decide on their appeal.

Information from Gulja city received prior to the executions indicates that the cases of the two men had been returned to court, which may have been the final appeal hearing or sentence confirmation.

The men's families were reportedly allowed to see them before the executions, which were carried out early in the morning. The relatives had been given no official information for a year.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Both Abduhalik Abdureshit and Jur'at Nuri were from a village near Gulja city. Along with the nine others they had been detained in Yengihayat detention centre in Gulja city since April 1998, after six Uighur youths were killed during a clash with security forces.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English, Chinese, Uighur or in your own language:

- expressing dismay at the execution of Jur'at Nuri and Abduhalik Abdureshit and opposition to the death penalty as the ultimate form of cruel and inhuman punishment, and a violation of the right to life, as guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- calling on the Chinese government not to carry out further executions prior to Chinese New Year on 24 January 2001;
- expressing grave concern that Jur'at Nuri and Abduhalik Abdureshit were executed after being found guilty on the basis of confessions extracted under severe torture;
- expressing grave concern at the inadequate judicial proceedings and unfair trial resulting in the harsh sentences passed against Jur'at Nuri, Abduhalik Abdureshit, Saydulla Kurban, Abdurazzak Jelil, Abdurazzak Shamseden, Elyas Jalal, Sultan Jalal, Hudiyumberdi Begzad, Haziritaly Adham, Tohtahun Yarmuhammed and Abdul Aziz Sawut;
- calling for an immediate review of the sentences of the nine men named above who remain in detention and requesting assurances that they will not be tortured;
- calling on the Chinese government to end its massive and arbitrary use of the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

Chairman of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Regional People's Government

ABDULAHAT Abdurixit Zhuxi

Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu Renmin Zhengfu

2 Zhongshanlu

Wulumuqishi 830041

Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu

People's Republic of China

Telegram: Chairman of the Regional People's Government, Wulumuqi, Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu, China

Salutation: Dear Chairman

Premier of the People's Republic of China

ZHU Rongji Zongli

Guowuyuan

9 Xihuangchenggenbeijie

Beijingshi 100032

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT CN

Telegram: Premier Zhu Rongji, Beijing, China

Salutation: Your Excellency

and to diplomatic representatives of the People's Republic of China accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 22 February 2001.