

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 46/076/2003

23 October 2003

Further Information on UA 245/03 (EUR 46/070/2003, 19 August 2003) Harassment / Fear of Torture and ill-treatment

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**Bakhrom Khamroev (m), human rights defender
His family**

Human rights defender Bakhrom Khamroev was released from pre-trial detention on 20 October 2003. He had been detained on 20 July 2003 and charged with illegal possession of narcotic substances with the intent to supply in especially large quantities (under Art. 228, part 4 of the Russian Criminal Code). However, Bakhrom Khamroev and his lawyer claim that the drugs were planted on him during his arrest and that he may have been held for his political and human rights related activities.

On 16 October, human rights activist and Duma deputy Sergei Kovalev provided a surety for Bakhrom Khamroev so that he could be released. Bakhrom Khamroev still faces the charge of illegal possession of drugs (Art. 228, part 1). He claims however that at the time of his arrest, he was never formally interrogated and that he was only questioned shortly before his release. His lawyer has told Amnesty International that none of the departments of the Moscow procuracy wanted to investigate the case against Bakhrom Khamroev, possibly because they were aware of the fragility of the case against him.

In October, the Moscow procuracy telephoned the Memorial Human Rights Centre in Moscow, to tell them that they had received a large number of international letters from appeal writers, as the procuracy did not have enough personnel to read all the letters in English, they asked if the Memorial Human Rights Centre could pick up the letters and respond to them. The Memorial Human Rights Centre had cooperated with Bakhrom Khamroev on a number of occasions and had helped to publicize his case.

Many thanks to all those who sent appeals. If possible please send a final round of appeals in Russian, English or your own language:

- expressing concern about allegations that Bakhrom Khamroev faces falsified criminal charges solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression;
- calling for a comprehensive and impartial investigation into these allegations, and that any proceedings against Bakhrom Khamroev be conducted in full accord with international standards;
- calling upon the authorities to take all appropriate measures to ensure that human rights defenders are able to pursue their lawful role of monitoring and reporting on human rights issues, as set out in the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Defenders Resolution, without hindrance or intimidation.

APPEALS TO:

Chairperson of the Moscow Procuracy

Mikhail Avdiukov

Novokuznetskaia ul. 27

113184 Moscow

Russian Federation

Telegram: Chairperson of the Moscow Procuracy, Moscow, Russian Federation

Fax: +7 095 951 5040

Salutation: Dear Chairperson

Procurator General of the Russian Federation

Vladimir USTINOV

Ul. Bolshaya Dimitrovka, 15a

103793 Moscow
Russian Federation

Telegram: Procurator General of the Russian Federation, Moscow, Russian Federation

Fax: +7 095 292 88 48

Salutation: Dear Procurator General

COPIES TO:

President of the Russian Federation

Vladimir PUTIN

Pl. Staraya 4

Kremlin

103132 Moscow

Russian Federation

Fax: +7 095 206 51 73/230 24 08

Salutation: Dear President

and to diplomatic representatives of Russian Federation accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 4 December 2003.

