

EXTERNAL

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EXTRA 132/96

Fear of imminent execution

16 August 1996

KAZAKSTAN Azer Bashir ogly BASHIROV, born 1962

(_____ in cyrillic)

Azer Bashir ogly Bashirov may be facing imminent execution in Kazakstan. Amnesty International has received information that his case is awaiting consideration by the Clemency Commission, indicating that he has exhausted all other legal remedies to have his death sentence overturned. A decision on his fate may be taken very soon.

Little information is available about Azer Bashirov's case. It is known that he was sentenced to death, place and date unknown, for the contract killing of Aziz Kalbakhani, described as a well-known Kazakstani businessman. According to information obtained by local human rights monitors from official sources, a petition for clemency was submitted by Azer Bashirov to the Clemency Commission on 3 July 1996. Amnesty International is calling on authorities in Kazakstan to grant clemency to Azer Bashirov.

Azer Bashirov is a citizen of Azerbaijan. Amnesty International is also calling on authorities in Azerbaijan to exert whatever influence they can on the Kazakstani authorities not to execute Azer Bashirov. Although death sentences are still passed in Azerbaijan, no executions have been reported to have taken place there since 1993.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In March 1996 Amnesty International issued a statement condemning the use of the death penalty in Kazakstan. Information recently received by the organization from official and unofficial sources indicated that 110 death sentences had been passed during 1995, and 101 executions had been carried out. The Kazakstani authorities have publicly stated that Amnesty International's statistics are incorrect, and that the number of executions carried out in 1995 was 63. However, they have offered no explanation about how this figure of 63 executions relates to the other limited statistical information they have provided. Amnesty International has consistently pointed out to the Kazakstani authorities the requirement as a member of the United Nations and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe to publish detailed statistics on the use of the death penalty. Until Kazakstan is prepared to do this, Amnesty International stands by its original statement.

Amnesty International was informed in June 1996 by an unofficial source that in the first five months of 1996 the Clemency Commission had refused 25 petitions for clemency and upheld only two.

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

To authorities in Kazakstan

- urging the Clemency Commission and the President to grant clemency to Azer Bashir ogly Bashirov and to all other prisoners who petition against a death sentence;

To the President of Azerbaijan

- urging him to exert all possible influence to prevent the execution in Kazakstan of Azer Bashir ogly Bashirov, citizen of Azerbaijan;

To all target authorities

- expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- expressing sympathy for the victims of crime and their families, but pointing out that the death penalty has never been shown to deter crime more effectively than other punishments, and is brutalizing to all involved in its application.

APPEALS TO:

The President of Kazakstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev

Respublika Kazakhstan

480091 g. Almaty

Pl. Respubliki, 4

Prezidentu Respubliki Kazakhstan NAZARBAYEVU N.A.

Telegrams: Kazakstan, Almaty, apparat presidenta, Prezidentu Nazarbayevu

Faxes: (7 3272) 63 95 95

Salutation: Dear President

The Head of the Presidential Clemency Commission of Kazakstan, Mikhail Baranov

Respublika Kazakhstan

480091 g. Almaty

pl. Respubliki, 4

Komissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya

Zaveduyushemu otделom BARANOVU M.I.

Telegrams: Kazakstan, Almaty, Komissiya pomilovaniya

Salutation: Dear Sir

The President of the Azerbaijani Republic, Heydar Aliyev

Azerbaydzhanskaya Respublika

370066 g. Baku

ul. Kommunisticheskaya, 19

Prezidentu Azerbaydzhanskoy Respubliki ALIYEVU G.A.

Telegrams: Azerbaijan, Baku, ul Kommunisticheskaya 19, Prezidentu Aliyevu

Faxes: (994 12) 98 33 28

Salutation: Dear President

COPIES TO:

The Procurator General of Kazakstan, Maksud Narikbayev

Respublika Kazakhstan

480099 g. Almaty

ul. Zheltoksan, 189

Prokuratura

Generalnomu prokuroru NARIKBAYEVU M.S.

Faxes: (7 3272) 53 27 30

The Chairman of the Supreme Court of Kazakstan, name unknown

Respublika Kazakhstan

480103 g. Almaty

ul. Sovetskaya, 66

Verkhovny Sud

Predsedatelyu

The Minister of Justice of Kazakstan, Konstantin Kolpakov

Respublika Kazakhstan
480091 g. Almaty
ul. Ayteke-bi, 67
Ministerstvo yustitsii
Ministru KOLPAKOVU K.A.

Minister of Internal Affairs of Kazakstan, Kairbek Suleymenov
Respublika Kazakhstan
480091 g. Almaty (Alma-Ata)
ul. Kabanbai batyra, 95
MVD
Ministru SULEYMENOVU K.

and to diplomatic representatives of Kazakstan and Azerbaijan accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 September 1996.