

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 58/06/94

Distr: UA/SC

EXTRA 54/94

Death penalty / Legal concern

20 September 1994

KYRGYZSTAN

Sultan KARIBZHANOV, aged 24

Andrei ARAZOV, aged 23

Sultan Karibzhanov faces imminent execution unless the Presidential Clemency Commission of Kyrgyzstan reconsiders its decision to uphold his death sentence and recommends that the President exercises his constitutional authority to commute the sentence.

Sultan Karibzhanov was convicted, together with his friend, Andrei Arazov, by Chuy Regional Court on 7 February 1994 of the murder of an elderly couple in March 1992. Both were sentenced to death. On 5 April, the Supreme Court of Kyrgyzstan rejected their appeal against their death sentences. Amnesty International has just been informed by the Secretary of the Presidential Clemency Commission that the Clemency Commission has upheld Andrei Arazov's petition for clemency and that the President of Kyrgyzstan has commuted his sentence to 20 years' imprisonment.

However, the Clemency Commission has decided not to grant clemency to Sultan Karibzhanov. It is not clear whether the President has already signed the execution order for Sultan Karibzhanov.

Sources have raised concerns that the court of first instance verdicts are unsound: they report that the only evidence linking Andrei Arazov and Sultan Karibzhanov to the crime were confessions made to law enforcement officers during interrogation, and that they were beaten and intimidated into making these confessions. During their trial the defendants retracted their confessions.

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

- welcoming the commutation of Andrei Arazov's death sentence;
- expressing regret at the Clemency Commission's decision to uphold Sultan Karibzhanov's death sentence, and calling on the Commission to reconsider and to recommend that the President commute his death sentence;
- expressing concern that the verdicts against Andrei Arazov and Sultan Karibzhanov have been called into question, following allegations that the two men were forced to make confessions under ill-treatment during interrogation.

APPEALS TO

1) The President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Askar Akayev

Kyrgyzskaya Respublika

720003 g. Bishkek

Dom pravitelstva

Prezidentu AKAYEVU A.A.

Telegrams: Kyrgyzskaya Respublika, 720003 Bishkek, Prezidentu Akayevu A.A.

Faxes: +7 3312 21 86 27

Salutation: Dear President

2) The Head of the Department for Citizenship and Clemency Questions at the President's Apparatus, Aynabek Kachkynbayev

Kyrgyzskaya Respublika

720003 g. Bishkek
Dom pravitelstva
Apparat Prezidenta
Otdel po voprosam grazhdanstva i pomilovaniya
Zaveduyushchemu otdelom KACHKYNBAYEVU A.

Telegrams: Kyrgyzskaya Respublika, 720003 Bishkek, Otdel pomilovaniya, Kachkynbayevu A.

Faxes: +7 3312 21 86 27

Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

The Chairman of the Supreme Court, K. Boobekov
Kyrgyzskaya Respublika
720505 g. Bishkek
ul. Orozbekova
Verkhovny Sud
Predsedatelyu BOOBEKOVU K.

The Procurator General, name not known
Kyrgyzskaya Respublika
720300 g. Bishkek
ul. Orozbekova, 72
Prokuratura Kyrgyzskoy Respubliki
Generalnomu prokuroru

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ednan Karabayev
Kyrgyzskaya Respublika
720003 g. Bishkek
ul. Abdumomunova (byv. Kirova), 205
Ministerstvo inostrannykh del
Ministry KARABAYEVU E.
Faxes: +7 3312 22 57 35

and to diplomatic representatives of Kyrgyzstan accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 22 October 1994.