

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 62/02/94

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Date: 26 January 1994

*MEDICAL CONCERN*

**Dmitry RASSOKHIN  
UZBEKISTAN**

Dmitry Rassokhin is a 22-year-old ethnic Russian who was sentenced to death in July 1992 for premeditated murder. An appeal against his sentence was turned down by the Supreme Court in April 1993 and his only remaining hope of avoiding execution is an appeal for clemency to the President of Uzbekistan.

Dmitry Rassokhin was convicted of the murder of two Uzbek brothers during a drunken brawl in December 1991. Two other men convicted with him were sentenced to terms of imprisonment. While admitting his involvement in the brawl, Dmitry Rassokhin has consistently protested his innocence of the murders. Amnesty International has received complaints from unofficial sources of serious errors and oversights in the preliminary investigation of the crime. These sources have also suggested that the outcome of the trial was influenced by the fact that Dmitry Rassokhin is Russian and the murder victims were Uzbeks. Uzbekistan's population of 20.3 million is around 69 per cent Uzbek and 10 per cent Russian, with sizeable Tatar, Kazakh, Tadzhik and Meskhetian Turkish minorities.

Dmitry Rassokhin is held on death row in the investigation-isolation prison in the capital, Tashkent, where it appears that he is without access to routine medical attention. Since his arrest and imprisonment he is reported to have developed a gastric ulcer, but he does not receive adequate medication from the prison authorities nor are any special dietary measures taken. Dmitry Rassokhin's family is permitted to provide medication whenever possible, but claim that this does not always reach him. Towards the end of 1993 he is reported to have developed ulcers on his feet which have not been treated. No further detail is available, although the ulceration is said to affect both the soles and upper surfaces of his feet and to be aggravated by the damp conditions of his cell.

Amnesty International is concerned that he is without adequate medical treatment and is raising this concern with the Uzbekistan authorities. It is also calling for the commutation of Dmitry Rassokhin's death sentence. Amnesty International opposes the death penalty without reservation and has previously held discussions with the Uzbekistan authorities about the abolition of the punishment. The organization currently knows of four other pending death sentences in Uzbekistan, although it does not have access to official figures on the frequency with which the death penalty has been used since Uzbekistan gained independence from the USSR in 1991. At the time of an Amnesty International visit to Uzbekistan in April 1992, the AI delegation was told by the Minister of Justice that the use of the death penalty in the republic was declining, although no statistics were available. Death is by shooting.

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To: Medical professionals  
From: Medical Office / Research Department - Europe  
Date: 26 January 1994

*MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION*

**Dmitry RASSOKHIN  
UZBEKISTAN**

Keywords

Theme: Death penalty/ ill-health/ medical care

**Summary**

Appeals are requested for Dmitry Rassokhin, a 22-year-old prisoner on death row in Uzbekistan who is in need of medical care but whose medical needs are apparently not being addressed by the prison authorities. There is also concern at reports of flaws in the investigation of the crime for which he was convicted. Please see the details attached.

**Recommended Actions**

Letters are requested from medical professionals to the addresses below:

- expressing concern that Dmitry Rassokhin, who is under sentence of death in Tashkent, is in need of medical care which he appears not to be receiving
- seeking information on what access he has to medical attention and treatment and seeking assurances that he will be provided with any care he requires

Letters to the President of Uzbekistan should also

- outline Amnesty International's opposition to the death penalty; state that AI believes the death penalty to be inherently unjust and arbitrary, however heinous the crime for which it is provided, and that the risk of error in applying the death penalty is inescapable
- urge that the death sentence passed on Dmitry Rassokhin be commuted

**Addresses**

*President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Islam Abduganievich KARIMOV*

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

pl. Mustakillik

Apparat prezidenta

Prezidentu Respubliki Uzbekistan

KARIMOVU I.A.

Fax: (3712) 393.55.25 -or-

(3712) 39.54.00

**Addresses**

*The Procurator of Tashkent City*  
Respublika Uzbekistan  
g. Tashkent  
Gorodskaya prokuratura  
Prokuroru

*Director of the Tashkent  
investigation-isolation prison*  
Respublika Tashkent  
g. Tashkent  
Gorodskoy sledstvenny izolator (SIZO)  
Nachalniku

**Copies**

**Please send a copy of your letter to the  
Tashkent Procurator to:**

*The Procurator General of the Republic of  
Uzbekistan, Buritosh MUSTAFOYEV*  
Respublika Uzbekistan  
g. Tashkent  
ul. Gogolya, 66  
Prokuratura Respubliki Uzbekistan  
Generalnomu prokuroru  
MUSTAFOYEVU B.

**Please send a copy of your letter to the  
Prison Director to:**

*The Minister of Internal Affairs,  
Zakirzhan Almatovich*  
Respublika Uzbekistan  
700029 g. Tashkent  
ul. G. Lopatina, 1  
Ministerstvo vnutrennikh del  
Respubliki Uzbekistan  
Ministru ALMATOVU Z.A.