

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

## Media Advisory

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### **Former prisoners of conscience from Uzbekistan to speak about their experiences**

*Ismail Adylov and Makhbuba Kasymova, two Uzbek Human Rights Defenders and former prisoners of conscience will visit the offices of Amnesty International in London next week. Both were released earlier last year. Amnesty International had intensively campaigned for their release.*

*Amnesty International believes that they were imprisoned solely for their peaceful, legitimate activity as members of the unregistered Independent Human Rights Organization of Uzbekistan and links with the non-violent opposition.*

*During their stay Mr. Adylov and Mrs. Kasymova will discuss the current Human Rights situation in Uzbekistan with representatives of Amnesty International and will also be available for media interviews.*

*Media interview availability:*

**Monday 21 January 2002, 1500-1800**

*To arrange an interview please call:*

**Tel: +44 (0)20 7 413 5566**

*Since the war in Afghanistan after the 11 September attacks, Uzbekistan has become an increasingly important actor in international politics due to its common border with Afghanistan. Uzbekistan became independent in 1991. Amnesty International has addressed authorities there on a number of issues relating to the detention or ill-treatment of opposition*

*political figures and human rights activists; torture and ill-treatment of detainees; "disappearances", the death penalty and criminal proceedings which fall short of international fair trial standards.*

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For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on +44 20 7413 5566

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