

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 390/92                    Fear of torture/extrajudicial execution    10 December 1992

UZBEKISTAN:                Abdumanob PULATOV, human rights activist

(in cyrillic                \_\_\_\_\_ )

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Abdumanob Pulatov, a leading human rights activist from the Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan, was abducted in Bishkek, the capital of the neighbouring republic of Kyrgyzstan, on 8 December 1992. It is reported that his abductors are officers of the Uzbekistan National Security Service, and have taken him to Uzbekistan. Amnesty International fears that Abdumanob Pulatov may be subjected to torture or possibly killed.

Abdumanob Pulatov is chairman of the independent Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan and a member of the opposition Birlik (Unity) movement of Uzbekistan.

However, he has lived in Moscow for several months as a virtual political exile because of harassment by the Uzbek authorities. He was in Bishkek to organize an international human rights conference on 6-7 December, which was co-hosted by the Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan. It was announced at the conference that Abdumanob Pulatov was to remain in Bishkek as director of a new Central Asian human rights information centre.

Shortly after midday on 8 December witnesses saw Abdumanob Pulatov being seized by two men from the street outside his hotel in Bishkek and forcibly put into a white van, which then drove away. A Kyrgyz police spokesman later stated that Abdumanob Pulatov's abductors were members of the Uzbekistan National Security Service. Shortly before his abduction Abdumanob Pulatov had reportedly expressed fears that the Uzbek authorities might try to kill him.

Amnesty International is calling on the Uzbek authorities to release Abdumanob Pulatov immediately and unconditionally.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Opposition politicians and human rights activists are subject to frequent persecution and harassment in Uzbekistan. One prisoner of conscience, Babur Shakirov, is currently in pre-trial detention on charges of calling for the overthrow of the state, because of his attempts to establish a peaceful parliamentary-style opposition forum. Probable prisoner of conscience Pulat Akhunov is currently on trial on assault charges which sources allege have been fabricated to punish him for his opposition activities. Short-term "administrative arrest" of up to 15 days has been used to punish people for organizing peaceful meetings and demonstrations. On at least seven occasions during 1992 leaders of the Birlik movement, including Abdumanob Pulatov's

brother Abdurakhim Pulatov, have been victims of serious physical assault by unknown assailants.

On 4 December at least six opposition activists were detained by police in Uzbekistan to prevent them from attending the Bishkek human rights conference.

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

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Abdumanob Pulatov;
- calling for the Uzbek authorities to guarantee Abdumanob Pulatov's safety.

**APPEALS TO**

1. President of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

Apparat Prezidenta

Prezidentu Respubliki Uzbekistan

KARIMOVU I.A.

**Telegrams: Respublika Uzbekistan, g. Tashkent, Apparat Prezidenta, Prezidentu KARIMOVU I.A.**

**Telexes: 116343 MID SU; 116116 BAHOR SU**

**Salutation: Dear President Karimov**

2. Chairman of the National Security Service:

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

Natsionalnaya sluzhba bezopasnosti Respubliki Uzbekistan

Predsedatelyu ALIYEVU G.

**Telegrams: Respublika Uzbekistan, g. Tashkent, Natsionalnaya sluzhba bezopasnosti Respubliki, Predsedatelyu ALIYEVU G.**

**Salutation: Dear Chairman**

3. Procurator-General of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

ulitsa Gogolya, 66

Prokuratura Respubliki Uzbekistan

Generalnomu Prokuroru MUSTAFOYEVU B.

**Telegrams: Respublika Uzbekistan, g. Tashkent, ulitsa Gogolya 66, Prokuratura Respubliki, Prokuroru MUSTAFOYEVU B.**

**Salutation: Dear Procurator General**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

Ministerstvo inostrannykh del

Respubliki Uzbekistan

Ministru ABDURAZZAKOVU U.

and to diplomatic representatives of Uzbekistan accredited to your country (these are usually to be found at the Embassy of the Russian Federation, the former Soviet Embassy).

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 21 January 1993.