

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 62/010/2002

31 May 2002

Further information on EXTRA 41/01 (EUR 62/007/2001, 5 July 2001) and follow-ups (EUR 62/013/2001, 3 August 2001; EUR 62/014/2001, 11 October 2001; EUR 62/018/2001, 8 November 2001; EUR 62/006/2002, 26 February 2002) - Fear of imminent execution

UZBEKISTAN Maksim Strakhov (_____) (m)

Nigmatullo Fayzullayev (_____) (m)

Amnesty International has just received reports that Nigmatullo Fayzullayev was executed at the end of April. It is feared that his co-accused Maksim Strakhov could be executed at any time.

The Uzbek authorities did not inform Nigmatullo Fayzullayev's family of their son's execution. It is only when they wanted to visit him on death row in Tashkent prison at the end of April and were refused access, that they suspected he might no longer be alive. Tamara Chikunova of the group "Mothers Against the Death Penalty" in Uzbekistan, who helped to discover the fate of their son, was later able to confirm that Nigmatullo Fayzullayev had indeed been executed. The exact date of his execution is not known and to Amnesty International's knowledge the family have not yet received a death certificate.

Maksim Strakhov's execution was reportedly put on hold following an intervention by the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Committee on 16 October 2001. However, Amnesty International has not received a confirmation of the stay of execution from the Uzbek authorities despite repeated requests by the organization. The organisation's concern is heightened by the fact that on 18 January 2002, Refat Tulyaganov was executed despite an intervention by the UN Human Rights Committee urging the Uzbek authorities to put his execution on hold.

Nigmatullo Fayzullayev and Maksim Strakhov were sentenced to death by Tashkent City Court on 18 April 2001 for premeditated aggravated murder. According to Maksim Strakhov's mother, who last visited him on death row on 10 May, her son was severely beaten by law enforcement officers for more than three days following his arrest in October 2000.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible in English, Russian, Uzbek or your own language:

- expressing deep regret at the execution of Nigmatullo Fayzullayev;
- urging the President to use his constitutional authority to commute the death sentence of Maksim Strakhov, and all other death sentences that come before him;
- asking the authorities to confirm Maksim Strakhov's stay of execution following an intervention by the United Nations Human Rights Committee in October 2001;
- urging the authorities to inform you when Nigmatullo Fayzullayev was executed;
- 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 those involved in its application.

APPEALS TO (Please note that it may be difficult to send faxes. If a voice answers during office hours, repeat 'fax' until connected; fax machines may be switched off outside office hours -five hours ahead of GMT):

President, Islam Abduganiyevich KARIMOV

Respublika Uzbekistan; 700163 g. Tashkent; ul. Uzbekistanskaya, 43; Rezidentsia prezidenta;

Prezidentu Respubliki Uzbekistan; KARIMOVU I.A., UZBEKISTAN

Faxes: + 998 71 - 2 89 00 46 (Write on the top of your fax: "Tel.: 139 53 75; 139 82 60; 139 59 29; Prezidentu Respubliki Uzbekistan; KARIMOVU I.A.")

Telegrams: Prezidentu Karimovu, 700163 Tashkent, Uzbekistan

e-mails: uzinfo@uzinfo.gov.uz (if your e-mail bounces back, please fax it if possible)

Salutation: Dear President Karimov,

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdulaziz Khafizovich KOMILOV

Respublika Uzbekistan; 700029 g. Tashkent; pl. Mustakillik, 5; Ministerstvo inostrannykh del Respubliki Uzbekistan; Ministru KOMILOVU A.Kh., UZBEKISTAN

Telegrams: Ministru inostrannykh del, 700029 Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Faxes: + 998 71 139 15 17

Salutation: Dear Minister

General Procurator, Rashidjon Hamidovich KODIROV

Respublika Uzbekistan; 700047 g. Tashkent; ul. Gulyamova, 66; Prokuratura Respubliki Uzbekistan; Generalnomu prokuroru; KODIROVU R. Kh., UZBEKISTAN

Telegrams: Generalnomu prokuroru, 700047 Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Salutation: Dear Procurator General

COPIES TO:

Chairman of the Supreme Court, I.I. Ishmetov

Respublika Uzbekistan; 700183 g. Tashkent; ul. Abdulla Kodiri, 1; Verkhovny Sud Respubliki Uzbekistan; Predsedatelyu Ishmetov I.I.; UZBEKISTAN

Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights, Sayora RASHIDOVA (Ms)

Respublika Uzbekistan; 700035 g. Tashkent; ul. Xalqlar Do'stligi, 1; Oliy Majlis Respubliki Uzbekistan; Upolnomochennoy po pravam cheloveka pri Oliy Majlis; RASHIDOVYOY S., UZBEKISTAN

and to diplomatic representatives of Uzbekistan accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 June 2002.