

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 99/06 (EUR 62/008/2006, 24 April 2006) Fear of torture and ill-treatment/Forcible return/Fear of death penalty

UZBEKISTAN Husein Dzhelil (known as Huseyin Celil) aged 37, Canadian citizen

Husein Dzhelil, a Canadian citizen and ethnic Uighur from the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR) in northwest China, was transferred from a detention facility near the Uzbekistani capital Tashkent to an unknown location sometime between 6 and 8 June. It is feared that he may be forcibly returned to Kyrgyzstan or to China. If returned to China, Amnesty International believes that he would be at risk of further torture or ill-treatment and possibly the death penalty if his "crimes" are deemed to be "serious".

Since his detention on 27 March, Canadian government representatives have reportedly been able to visit Husein Dzhelil only three times, with the last meeting taking place on 8 May. His lawyer was reportedly denied access to him as were his relatives who were only allowed to pass on food, clothes and money. Amnesty International learned that he was held in Kuluk detention facility near Tashkent from the end of April or beginning of May. When his father-in-law went to deliver a food parcel on 9 June, the prison guards reportedly told him that officers from the National Security Service had taken Husein Dzhelil to an unknown location.

According to the Embassy of Uzbekistan in London, Husein Dzhelil is being sought by the Kyrgyzstani authorities for alleged involvement in the assassination of the head of the Uighur Society in Kyrgyzstan on 28 March 2000 and for a "terrorist act against the state delegation of Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region of China on 25 May 2000". Husein Dzhelil's wife claimed that he was in Turkey at the time of crimes. He reportedly arrived there in January 1999 and together with his wife applied for refugee status at UNHCR office in Ankara, Turkey in June 1999. He remained in Turkey until his resettlement to Canada in October 2001.

On 31 December 2001, four men were found guilty of the crimes Husein Dzhelil is accused of by a court in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. They are Otabek Akhadov, an Uzbekistani citizen of Uighur origin, Djalal Makhmud Kasardzhi, a Turkish citizen of Uighur origin; Muhammad Toktoniyaz and Ablemit Kerim, two Chinese citizens of Uighur origin. The case against them was believed by unofficial sources to be politically motivated. The four men were also believed to have been convicted for their ethnic origin and alleged membership of a "separatist" Uighur organization, the Eastern Turkestan Liberation Front. Dzhahal Makhmud Kasardzhi was already serving a 14-year prison sentence at the time when the crimes were committed.

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

To the Uzbekistani authorities, in Uzbek, Russian, English or your own language:

- urging the authorities to disclose the whereabouts of Canadian citizen Husein Dzhelil;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that Husein Dzhelil is either charged with a recognizably criminal offence or released immediately;
- urging the authorities to ensure that he has access to his family and to a lawyer of his choice;
- asking the authorities to confirm whether or not the Chinese authorities have made an extradition request for Husein Dzhelil and the grounds on which the Chinese authorities have based this request;

- urging them to ensure that Husein Dzhelil is not forcibly returned to China, where he would be at risk of torture and execution;
- reminding Uzbekistan of its international obligations not to forcibly return anyone to a situation where they would be at risk of torture or other serious human rights violations.

TO THE AUTHORITIES OF UZBEKISTAN:

APPEALS TO:

President

Islamu A. KARIMOVU; Rezidentsia prezidenta; ul. Uzbekistanskaia, 43; Tashkent 700163; UZBEKISTAN

Email: presidents_office@press-service.uz

Fax: +998 71 139 53 25 / 139 55 25 / 239 86 01

Salutation: Dear President Karimov

Procurator General

Rashidjon KODIROV,

Prokuratura Respubliki Uzbekistan, ul. Gulyamova, 66; Tashkent; 700047; UZBEKISTAN

Email: prokuratura@lawyer.com

Fax: + 998 71 133 39 17/ 133 73 68

Salutation: Dear Procurator General

Chairman of the National Security Service

Rustamu INOYATOVU; Predsedateliu Sluzhbi Natsionalnoi Bezopasnosti RU; ul. Novruz, 1; Tashkent; UZBEKISTAN

Salutation: Dear Chairman

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Elior GANIEV, Ministerstvo inostrannykh del RU; pl. Mustakillik, 5; Tashkent 700029; UZBEKISTAN

Fax: +998 71 139 15 17

Minister of Internal Affairs

Bahodir MATLIUBOV

Ministerstvo vnutrennikh del RU, ul. Novruz, 1; Tashkent 700029; UZBEKISTAN

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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 31 July 2006.