

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 62/16/93
Distr: UA/SC

UA 210/93 Fear of Imminent Execution

24 June 1993

UZBEKISTAN: Dmitry Vasilyevich RASSOKHIN
 (in Russian _____)

Amnesty International fears that Dmitry Rassokhin faces imminent execution after having been sentenced to death in the former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan.

An appeal against his sentence has been turned down by the Supreme Court, and his only hope of avoiding execution now is a petition for clemency to the President of Uzbekistan.

Dmitry Rassokhin was sentenced to death by the City Court of Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, on 20 July 1992. An ethnic Russian, he was convicted of the premeditated, aggravated murder of two Uzbek brothers during a drunken brawl. He has consistently maintained his innocence. The Supreme Court turned down his appeal on 19 April 1993, and unofficial sources believe the clemency hearings are very close.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan retains the death penalty for 19 peacetime offences. However, senior officials told an Amnesty International delegation which visited Uzbekistan in April 1992 that regulations introduced in December 1991 reduced the number of offences which in practice still carry the death penalty to four: treason; murder under aggravating circumstances; murder of a minor; and aggravated rape.

The Minister of Justice told Amnesty International that the use of the death penalty in Uzbekistan was declining, but he was unable to provide the delegation with statistics. Amnesty International urged the Uzbek authorities to publish comprehensive statistics on the application of the death penalty, pointing out the agreement on the publication of official death penalty statistics by participating states of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), which Uzbekistan joined in January 1992.

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

- expressing concern about reports that Dmitry Rassokhin has been sentenced to death in Uzbekistan;
- urging President Islam Karimov to grant clemency to Dmitry Rassokhin, and to commute the death sentence;
- urging President Karimov to commute all other death sentences that come before him.

APPEALS TO

1) The President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov:

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

pl. Mustakillik

Dom pravitelstva

Prezidentu Karimovu I.

Telegrams: Uzbekistan, Tashkent, dom pravitelstva, Prezidentu Karimovu I.

Faxes: + 7 3712 39 55 25 or + 7 3712 39 54 00

Salutation: Dear President Karimov

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COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1. Chairman of the Clemency Commission of the Uzbekistan Supreme Soviet, Pulatov (first name unknown):

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

Verkhovny Sovet Respubliki Uzbekistan

Komissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya

Predsedatelyu Pulatovu

2. Chairman of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan, Ubaydulla Mingbayev:

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

ul. Kodiri, 1

Verkhovny Sud Respubliki Uzbekistan

Predsedatelyu Mingbayevu U.

3. Procurator General of Uzbekistan, Buritosh Mustafoyev:

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

ul. Gogolya, 66

Prokuratura Respubliki Uzbekistan

Generalnomu Prokuroru Mustafoyevu B.

4. Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, Sadyk Safayev

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

Ministerstvo inostrannykh del

Ministru Safayevu S.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 August 1993.