

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 62/018/2004

13 August 2004

Further Information on UA 234/04 (EUR 62/014/2004, 30 July 2004) Fear of imminent execution/
torture/ill-treatment

UZBEKISTAN

Ikram MUKHTAROV (m), aged 24
Yusuf ZHUMAYEV (m), aged 21

Yusuf Zhumayev was reportedly executed in secret on 10 August, even though the (UN) Human Rights Committee had asked the authorities to stay the execution while it was considering allegations that his trial was unfair and that he was tortured and ill-treated in pre-trial detention.

Ikram Mukhtarov is still on death row, where his wife visited him on 10 August.

Tashkent city court sentenced him to death on 24 May 2004 for murdering a woman and a man in May 2001. The court reportedly ignored his claim that his "confession" was extracted under torture. However, on 19 July the (UN) Human Rights Committee appealed to the Uzbek authorities to stay his execution while it considered the allegations that he received an unfair trial and was tortured in pre-trial detention.

The execution of Yusuf Zhumayev has heightened Amnesty International's fears that Ikram Mukhtarov is in imminent danger of execution.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Prior to reports about Yusuf Zhumayev's execution, Amnesty International knew of 12 people who had been executed in Uzbekistan despite interventions by the (UN) Human Rights Committee.

As a party to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Uzbekistan has accepted that the (UN) Human Rights Committee may consider communications from its citizens who claim to have suffered violations of the rights set out in the Covenant.

In July 2003 the acting UN High Commissioner for Human Rights publicly urged the Uzbek authorities "not to carry out the execution of detainees who have appealed their convictions to the United Nations Human Rights Committee". Later that month the (UN) Human Rights Committee reminded the authorities that "it amounts to a grave breach of the Optional Protocol to execute an individual whose case is pending before the Committee".

In September 2001, President Islam Karimov publicly stated that around 100 people were executed in Uzbekistan each year. As vital information on the application of the death penalty is treated as a secret in Uzbekistan, comprehensive official information on the numbers of sentences passed and executions carried out is not publicly available. Several local human rights activists believe that more than 200 people are executed in Uzbekistan every year.

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

- expressing grave concern at reports that Yusuf Zhumayev was executed on 10 August 2004 although the (UN) Human Rights Committee had requested a stay on his execution;
- urging the President to commute Ikram Mukhtarov's death sentence and all other death sentences that come before him;
- urging the authorities to abide by the 19 July 2004 request by the United Nations Human Rights Committee to stay Ikram Mukhtarov's execution while his case is being considered, and thereby honour Uzbekistan's obligation as a party to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- expressing concern about allegations that Ikram Mukhtarov was tortured and ill-treated in pre-trial detention, urging the authorities to open impartial and thorough investigations into these allegations and bring to justice anyone found responsible.

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 (GMT+5)

President of Uzbekistan

Islam Abduganiyevich KARIMOV
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Rezidentsia prezidenta;
Prezidentu RU;
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UZBEKISTAN

Salutation: Dear President Karimov

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Sodiq Solihovich SAFOYEV
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Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

General Procurator of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Rashidjon Hamidovich KODIROV
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Salutation: Dear Procurator General

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 23 September 2004.