

EXTERNAL

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EXTRA 117/95

Fear of imminent execution

6 October 1995

UZBEKISTAN Shukhrat YUNUSOV ( \_\_\_\_\_ in Russian)

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Amnesty International fears that Shukhrat Yunusov 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.

Shukhrat Yunusov was sentenced to death by Tashkent City Court on 1 May 1995 for premeditated, aggravated murder (Article 97 of the Uzbek Criminal Code).

He maintains that he is innocent and there are allegations that the court did not take into account witness statements identifying the murderer as a dark-skinned man with spiky hair. Shukhrat Yunusov is described as being light-skinned with curly hair. The Presidium of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan turned down his appeal against his death sentence possibly in July 1995. A petition for clemency has been lodged with the President of Uzbekistan.

Shukhrat Yunusov is married and has three children. He has no previous convictions.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Amnesty International has received allegations recently from unofficial sources that 400 death sentences were passed in Uzbekistan in 1994. If confirmed, this would place Uzbekistan among the top five countries in the world for passing death sentences. It has also been reported that many executions are carried out within ten days of the petition for clemency being turned down by the President of Uzbekistan, and sometimes within as little as three days.

Amnesty International has consistently pressed the Uzbek authorities to reduce the scope of the death penalty as a step towards total abolition; to impose a moratorium on death sentences and executions pending a review of this punishment; and to publish comprehensive statistics on the application of the death penalty.

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

- expressing concern that Shukhrat Yunusov has been sentenced to death in Uzbekistan;
- urging President Islam Karimov to grant clemency to Shukhrat Yunusov, and to commute his death sentence;
- urging the authorities to make the outcome of appeals and petitions of clemency known to the relatives of prisoners on death row and to Amnesty International;
- urging President Karimov to commute all other death sentences that come before him;
- noting that there is no evidence that the death penalty prevents serious crime any more than other punishments.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

The President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov:  
Respublika Uzbekistan  
700000 g. Tashkent  
pr. Uzbekistansky

Rezidentsiya Prezidenta  
Prezidentu Karimovu I.A.

**Telegrams:Uzbekistan, 700000 Tashkent, Prezidentu Karimovu I.**

**Faxes:+ 7 3712 39 55 25**

**Salutation:Dear President Karimov**

**COPIES TO:**

1. Head of the Clemency Department at the President's Office, Akhmanov (first name unknown):

Respublika Uzbekistan  
700000 g. Tashkent  
Apparat Prezidenta  
Otdel po voprosam pomilovaniya  
Zaveduyuchshemu otdelom Akhatovu

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

Respublika Uzbekistan  
700183 g. Tashkent  
ul. Abdulla Kodiri, 1  
Verkhovny Sud Respubliki Uzbekistan  
Predsedatelyu Mingbayevu U.

**Faxes: +7 3712 41 00 28**

3. Procurator General of Uzbekistan, Buritosh Mustafoyev:

Respublika Uzbekistan  
700000 g. Tashkent  
ul. Gogolya, 66  
Prokuratura Respubliki Uzbekistan  
Generalnomu Prokuroru Mustafoyevu B.

4. Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, Abdulaziz Komilov

Respublika Uzbekistan  
700029 g. Tashkent  
pl. Mustakillik, 5  
Ministerstvo inostrannykh del  
Ministru Komilovu A.

**Faxes: +7 3712 39 43 48 or 39 15 45 or 39 18 17**

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 10 November 1995.