

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 62/025/2004

25 October 2004

**Further Information on UA 292/04 (EUR 62/024/2004, 15 October 2004) - Death penalty/Fear of imminent execution**

**UZBEKISTAN**

**Sodik Kodirov (m), born 1974  
Shukhrat Aripov (m), born 1969**

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Amnesty International has been able to confirm that Shukhrat Aripov is alive on death row. Sodik Kodirov is also believed to be alive. However, both men could be executed at any time and appeals from the Urgent Action network could save their lives.

Shukhrat Aripov's parents had official permission to visit their son on 14 October. However, when they arrived they were turned away by prison guards. Such refusal to grant a visit to people with official permission to see a death row prisoner has often indicated that the prisoner has been executed. "His parents were in a state of shock. Shukhrat's father fell ill and couldn't leave the house for several days. When they went to the prison again on 21 October to try to find out whether their son was still alive prison officials immediately granted them access to him", said Mayra Rakhmanova, a member of the Uzbekistan-based human rights group Mothers against the Death Penalty and Torture. "We were surprised they were immediately given access without any bureaucratic hurdles. It probably happened because of international pressure." It was not explained to his parents why they had not been allowed to see him the previous week.

"When prison guards opened the door of his cell they didn't tell him that it was to take him to see his parents. He thought they were taking him to execution", said Mayra Rakhmanova.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In Uzbekistan neither death row prisoners nor their relatives are informed of the date of the execution in advance, denying them a last chance to say goodbye. The prisoner's body is not given to the relatives for burial and they are not told where he is buried.

In his February 2003 report following a visit to Uzbekistan, the UN Special Rapporteur on torture, Theo van Boven, stated that the "complete secrecy surrounding the date of execution, the absence of any formal notification prior to and after the execution and the refusal to hand over the body for burial are believed to be intentional acts, fully mindful of causing family members turmoil, fear and anguish over the fate of their loved one(s)." He described the treatment of family members as "malicious and amounting to cruel and inhuman treatment".

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

- urging the President to grant clemency to Shukhrat Aripov, Sodik Kodirov and all other death row prisoners;
- stating that you know of 14 cases in which death row prisoners were executed even though the UN Human Rights Committee had asked the Uzbek authorities to stay their executions while it considered their cases;
- urging the authorities to give you guarantees that nobody will be executed whose case is under consideration by the Committee;
- urging the authorities to promptly introduce a moratorium on death sentences and executions;
- urging the authorities to end the cruel and inhuman treatment of relatives of death row prisoners resulting from the secrecy surrounding the application of the death penalty.

**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; Respublika Uzbekistan; 700163 g. Tashkent; ul. Uzbekistanskaya, 43; Rezidentsia prezidenta; Prezidentu RU; KARIMOVU I.A.; UZBEKISTAN

**Salutation: Dear President Karimov**

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Sodik Solihovich SAFOYEV; Respublika Uzbekistan; 700029 g. Tashkent; pl. Mustakillik, 5; Ministerstvo inostrannykh del RU; Ministru Safoyevu, S.S.; UZBEKISTAN

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**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

General Procurator of the Republic of Uzbekistan

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

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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 6 December 2004.