

URGENT ACTION

RUSSIA EXTRADITES TAJIKISTANI ASLYUM SEEKER

Nizomhon Juraev, a citizen of Tajikistan, is facing extradition from Russia to Tajikistan despite having applied for asylum in the Russian Federation. If returned to Tajikistan, Nizomkhon Juraev is at risk of torture and ill-treatment.

In 2007, a criminal case was opened in Tajikistan against **Nizomhon Juraev**, a former local parliamentarian and businessman from the Soghd region in Tajikistan. He and 33 other people were charged with having committed violent organized crimes, economic crimes and unlawful possession of weapons. Some of them were also accused of killing the former Deputy Prosecutor General in 1999. At the time when the criminal case was brought, Nizomkhon Juraev was in Russia.

In 2009, 31 people, mostly relatives of Nizomhon Juraev or staff of his business company, were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. Tajikistani media and lawyers reported that some of these as well as some others, who were temporarily detained and questioned in connection with this case, were allegedly tortured. One man, who had been extradited from Russia to Tajikistan, alleged to the Russian lawyer, who is dealing with Nizomhon Juraev's case in Russia, that he had been threatened with rape by police in September 2008 in order to extract a "confession" against Nizomhon Juraev. During the trial proceedings several of the accused gave accounts of how they had been tortured, including with electric shocks.

Despite such information, the Russian authorities detained Nizomhon Juraev in August 2010 in Moscow upon an extradition request from the authorities in Tajikistan and in February 2011, the General Prosecutor of the Russian Federation decided that he could be extradited. Nizomhon Juraev has applied for asylum in Russia. His first appeal was turned down and he is currently appealing against this decision. He has also appealed against the decision of the Prosecutor General to extradite him. There is a real danger that he might be extradited to Tajikistan while his appeal is pending.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Russian or your own language:

- Urge the Russian authorities not to extradite Nizomhon Juraev
- Remind them of their obligation under international human rights law not to deport or extradite any person to a country where they are at risk of torture and/or other ill-treatment.
- Ask the Russian authorities to consider Nizomhon Juraev's appeal for refugee status in line with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees as well as his need for other forms of international protection if he does not qualify for refugee status

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 3 MAY 2011 TO:

Yurii Ya. Chaika
Prosecutor General of the Russian
Federation
Bolshaia Dmitrovka 15 A
Moscow
125993
Russian Federation

Fax: +7 495 987 58 41

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

And copies to:

Moscow City Court
Bogorodskii Val, d. 8
Moscow
107076
Russian Federation

Fax: +7 495 963 9359

Please do not send letters directly to the court, only copies.

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



URGENT ACTION

RUSSIA EXTRADITES TAJIKISTANI ASLYUM SEEKER

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International has researched and campaigned against human rights violations in Tajikistan such as torture and ill-treatment of detainees, and other persons, by law enforcement officers, impunity for torturers, inhuman prison conditions; restrictions of freedom of speech; and violence against women.

There are reports that lawyers, human rights activists, journalists and relatives of victims risk reprisals when raising torture allegations, and that the victims are usually reluctant to issue complaints about abuse by law enforcement officers as this would make them more vulnerable to further abuse, including trumped up charges against them in criminal cases.

Amnesty International is concerned that Nizomhon Juraev might be extradited or deported to Tajikistan despite him having applied for refugee status in the Russian Federation. Over the last years the Russian Federation has extradited several people to countries such as Tajikistan or Uzbekistan despite existing legal obligations to provide protection for these people. Amnesty International recognizes progress in the Russian Federation in improving the protection of refugees and asylum seekers. However, the organization is not convinced yet that the existing legal mechanism for the protection of refugees and asylum seekers are always fully implemented. Therefore the organization is concerned that Nizomhon Juraev might face extradition to Tajikistan in violation of his rights as guaranteed by the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR) and other international treaties, to which Russia is a party to.

UA: 84/11 Index: EUR 46/013/2011 Issue Date: 22 March 2011

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL

