



**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL

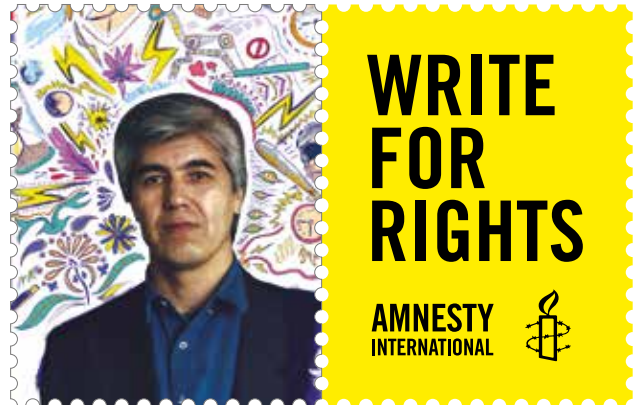


# **JOURNALIST BRUTALLY TORTURED TO CONFESS**

**MUHAMMAD BEKZHANOV UZBEKISTAN**

# MUHAMMAD BEKZHANOV

UZBEKISTAN



“I was lying there in a pool of blood for days – no water, no food. I was trying to remember all the good things in my life, my children, my wife. And mentally I was preparing myself that I was going to die.”

In 1999, Uzbekistani security forces tortured journalist Muhammad Bekzhanov, editor of a banned opposition newspaper. They beat him with rubber truncheons, suffocated him and gave him electric shocks until he confessed to “anti-state” offences.

Even though Uzbekistan has signed up to the UN Convention against Torture which absolutely bans torture and the use of evidence obtained under duress, its courts routinely rely on “confessions” obtained in the most brutal ways imaginable. At trial, a judge dismissed Muhammad’s allegations that he was tortured and used his “confession” to sentence him to 15 years in prison.

Muhammad is now one of the world’s longest-imprisoned journalists. He was due to be released in 2014, but he remains in jail, sentenced to nearly five more years for allegedly violating prison rules. His wife Nina found him at breaking point when she was allowed to visit him last year: “He was unrecognizable. All hope was lost in his eyes, he was just trying to survive.”

**Call on the President of Uzbekistan to order the release of Muhammad and a full investigation into his torture.**

**WRITE A LETTER  
CHANGE A LIFE**



## Write to the President of Uzbekistan

Muhammad Bekzhanov has already served more time in jail than almost any other journalist in the world. Call on President Islam Karimov to order his immediate release and an independent investigation into his allegations of torture.

President Islam Karimov  
Rezidentsia prezidenta  
ul. Uzbekistanskaia 43  
Tashkent 700163  
Uzbekistan



## Show Muhammad your solidarity

Muhammad and his family need our moral support. His daughter Aigul tells us her father cherishes every single letter he receives in prison like a priceless possession.

Muhammad Bekzhanov  
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Navoi region  
Uzbekistan