

URGENT ACTION

JAILED PARLIAMENTARIAN DENIED MEDICAL HELP

Former Uzbekistani parliamentarian Murad Dzhuraev, convicted and imprisoned after an unfair trial in 1995, is in urgent need of medical care. His prison sentence has been extended four times on politically motivated grounds.

Murad Dzhuraev, 61, a former member of Uzbekistan's parliament, was associated with the banned opposition democratic party Erk (meaning "Will") when he was arrested in 1994. He was sentenced to 12 years in jail the following year, after an unfair trial. He is seriously ill, but being denied medical treatment.

His wife, Holbika Dzhuraeva, visited him in Prison Colony 64/6 in the eastern city of Chirchik, and stayed for both 14 and 15 July. According to her Murad Dzhuraev's health has deteriorated severely in prison. He has lost all of his teeth. A dentist measured him for false teeth in 2013, but his family have heard nothing since and the prison authorities have not allowed him access to another dentist. Murad Dzhuraev cannot eat solid food, has problems with digestion, and has lost a lot of weight. His legs are painful all the time and he suffers from headaches. He has had no access to medical care he requires since he was detained, in 1994. The prison staff are keeping him under psychological pressure and he is losing hope that he will ever be free. The prison authorities are trying to isolate him, by threatening every prisoner who speaks with him that their prison sentences will be extended.

In June 1994 Murad Dzhuraev was abducted in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and taken to Uzbekistan. He was convicted of calling for a "violent overthrow of the constitutional system of Uzbekistan" in 1995, after an unfair trial, and sentenced to 12 years in prison. Before his trial, supporters claimed that police had tortured him to force him to confess to crimes under charges he and many human rights defenders claimed were groundless, and that he was being punished solely because of his involvement in distributing a banned opposition newspaper.

His case file is reported to have been marked with a red stripe, meaning the authorities believe he represents a threat to the state and should be subjected to harsher treatment in prison. Murad Dzhuraev's sentence was extended four times, by over 12 years, for supposedly violating prison rules. His sentence was extended for the fourth time in December 2012, by three years. According to his family, one of the "violations" he had committed was failing to change out of slippers when entering the hall where prisoners sleep.

Please write immediately in Uzbek, Russian, English or your own language:

- Calling on the Uzbekistani authorities to promptly release Murad Dzhuraev on the grounds of his seriously deteriorated health and also because repeated calls for the investigation into his case to be conducted in a manner consistent with international standards for a fair trial, including a prompt and impartial investigation into all allegations of torture, have gone unheeded for over 19 years;
- Urging them to ensure that Murad Dzhuraev is immediately provided with any medical care he may require.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 1 SEPTEMBER 2014 TO:

President of Uzbekistan
President Islam Karimov
Ul. Uzbekistanskaya 43
Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Fax: +998 71 139 55 25

Salutation: Dear President Karimov

Prosecutor General
Rashidzhon Kodirov
Prosecutor General's Office of
Uzbekistan
ul. Gulyamova 66
Tashkent 100047
Uzbekistan
Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

And copies to:
Minister of Internal Affairs
Bahodir Matlubov
Ministerstvo vnutrennikh del
ul. Junus Rajabiy 1
Tashkent 100029, Uzbekistan
Fax: + 998 71 233 89 34
Email: mvd@mvd.uz
info@mvd.uz

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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Murad Dzhuraev was a member of the democratic party Erk, the first registered opposition political party in the country's history. The authorities outlawed the party in 1993, and began a clampdown against its members at the beginning of February 1994. The clampdown was apparently provoked by the widespread clandestine distribution of the Erk newspaper (the first edition of 1994 had a print run of 20,000 and was reportedly distributed throughout the country). In late February and March 1994, at least 10 leading party activists were held for questioning following raids on their homes in towns and cities including the capital, Tashkent, by police apparently looking for copies of the newspaper. One edition featured an article by exiled Erk leader Muhammad Salih strongly criticizing President Islam Karimov; an article about the second anniversary of the shooting by police of student demonstrators in Tashkent in January 1992; and a list of people persecuted during 1993 for their political opposition to the government. Amnesty International believes that Murad Dzhuraev was arrested for his association with Muhammad Salih and as part of a continuing clampdown against the banned Erk party members.

On 27 July 2004 Murad Dzhuraev was additionally convicted of "disobedience to lawful demands of the administration of penal institutions", under Article 221 of the Criminal Code, and sentenced to three more years in prison. Another three years were added to his sentence on 27 July 2006, under the same article of the Criminal Code. On 31 May 2009, his sentence was extended by a further three years and four months, again for supposedly breaking prison rules. Finally, in December 2012, Murad Dzhuraev's sentence was extended yet again, by three years, for the same reason.

Amnesty International's research has shown that certain prisoners, such as human rights defenders, government critics and people convicted of membership of Islamist parties and groups or Islamic movements banned in Uzbekistan, are often subjected to severe punishment in the prisons where they serve their sentences, and have their sentences extended for long periods, even for alleged minor infractions of the prison rules. They are often put in punishment cells, which have been described by former prisoners as small rooms, often windowless and made of concrete, with no heating, no natural light or ventilation and too small for a bed. They are often denied adequate medical care, are often forced to work long hours doing physically demanding manual labour such as building work or making bricks, with basic tools, inadequate clothing, and little food and water. Former prisoners report that they were frequently beaten by prison guards and other prisoners.

Uzbekistan has no independent monitoring mechanisms in place to inspect all places of detention and no independent non-governmental organizations, domestic or international, carry out any form of regular, unannounced and unsupervised prison monitoring. In April 2013 the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) made a public statement that it had taken the very difficult decision to terminate all visits to detainees in Uzbekistan because the ICRC was unable to conduct such visits according to their standard working procedures and as a result, those visits were "pointless". Diplomats, while granted access to some detention facilities, are as a rule accompanied by prison or law enforcement officials during their visits.

Name: Murad Dzhuraev

Gender m/f: m

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