

PUBLIC

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UA 16/99

Death penalty / Unfair trial / Torture

26 January 1999

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA Abdushukur Nurallah, 33, teacher
Perhat Mollahun, 35, teacher

The two Uighur men named above were reportedly sentenced to death after an unfair secret trial on 16 January 1999. It is feared they were tortured to force them to "confess" to the charges.

According to unofficial sources, the two were among 12 Uighurs convicted of subversion and bomb-making by a court in Korgas (*Huo'erguosi*) county, near Gulja (*Yining*) city, in Ili Prefecture in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR).

Abdushukur Nurallah was reportedly sentenced to death for bomb-making. A graduate from the Ili Teachers Training College, he was a chemistry teacher at a middle school in Korgas county before his arrest.

Perhat Mollahun was reportedly sentenced to death with suspension of execution for two years. A graduate from the Mathematics faculty of Xinjiang University in Urumqi, he was a teacher at Nemune school, Langaer village, in Korgas county before his arrest.

According to a 22 January report from the Reuters news agency, which quoted an Ili court official, 29 people were sentenced by the Ili Prefecture Intermediate People's Court on 8 January 1999 on a range of charges including subversion, larceny, assault and incitement to demonstrate. One of the 29 was sentenced to death with suspension of execution for two years, and another to life imprisonment, the court official said. It is not known whether the 29 included the 12 reportedly tried in Korgas. Unofficial sources report that the 29 included 27 Uighurs and two Kazaks.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since 1996, the Chinese authorities have been cracking down harshly on suspected Uighur nationalists and independent Muslim religious leaders in the XUAR. This intensified in 1997 after anti-Chinese protests by Uighurs in Gulja that February, and a series of bomb explosions and violent incidents blamed on underground nationalist groups. Thousands of people are reported to have been arbitrarily detained, including many simply suspected of supporting the nationalist cause.

The XUAR is the only region of the People's Republic of China where political prisoners are known to have been executed in recent years. In 1997, official sources reported the execution of 12 Uighurs for taking part in the Gulja protests and of eight others for alleged involvement in terrorist activities. In 1998, at least 14 Uighurs, officially described as terrorists or "separatists", were executed in the region.

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

- urging the authorities to review the cases of Abdushukur Nurallah and Perhat Mollahun, reportedly sentenced to death on 16 January 1999 in Korgas county, Ili Prefecture, XUAR;

- expressing concern at reports that they and others were convicted of political offences after a secret unfair trial, and urging that the basis for the charges against them and full trial proceedings be made public;
- urging that all those recently sentenced on political charges in Ili be granted a new open trial, carried out according to international standards on fair trial, failing which they should be released;
- expressing opposition to the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate form of cruel and inhuman punishment and as a violation of the right to life as guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China

XIAO Yang Yuanzhang

Zuigao Renmin Fayuan

27 Dongjiao Min Xiang

Beijingshi 100726

People's Republic of China

Telegram: President of the Supreme People's Court, Beijing, China

Salutation: Dear President

Chairman of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Regional People's Government

ABDULAHAT Abdurixit Zhuxi

Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu Renmin Zhengfu

2 Zhongshanlu

Wulumuqishi 830041

Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu

People's Republic of China

Telegram: Chairman of the Regional People's Government, Wulumuqi, Xinjiang

Uighur Autonomous Region, China

Salutation: Dear Chairman

Secretary of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Regional Party Committee

WANG Lequan Shuji

Zhonggong Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu

Weiyuanhui

Wulumuqishi

Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu

People's Republic of China

Telegrams: Secretary of the Regional Party Committee, Wulumuqi, Xinjiang Uighur

Autonomous Region, China

Salutation: Dear Secretary

COPIES TO: your government and Members of Parliament in your country, and to diplomatic representatives of the People's Republic of China accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 9 March 1999.