

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 04/06/97

9 April 1997

Further information on UA 71/97 (EUR 60/07/97, 18 March 1997) - "Disappearance"

TAJIKISTAN / UZBEKISTAN

Rizoali OJIYEV (_____ in cyrillic), aged 34
Gadoali OJIYEV (_____), aged 30

Gadoali Ojiyev "reappeared" on 4 April 1997. He had reportedly been held in the custody of law enforcement officials in Uzbekistan, not in Tajikistan. According to information received by Amnesty International, he had been arrested ostensibly on suspicion of involvement in a criminal incident on 18 February, when an Uzbekistani customs post on the Tajikistan-Uzbekistan border had been attacked by armed men crossing from Tajikistan (Kanibadam, the town where Gadoali Ojiyev had been arrested, is close to the location where this incident took place).

However, during his detention he was repeatedly questioned not about that incident, but about the activities of his brother Rizoali. He was driven back to Khujand, Tajikistan, on 4 April and released reportedly without charge.

There is still no news about Rizoali Ojiyev. Amnesty International has received further information which appears to confirm the circumstances of his "disappearance". The identity of the people who took him away in a car shortly after he had been returned home by law enforcement officials following questioning remains unknown. However, the fact that these people appear to have been waiting for him to be returned home raises the question of whether they had prior knowledge of what Rizoali Ojiyev's movements would be that day, and whether they were acting on information which came from the law enforcement officials. Information that Gadoali Ojiyev was questioned about his brother while detained in Uzbekistan also raises questions about the possible involvement of Uzbekistani authorities in Rizoali Ojiyev's "disappearance".

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

1. Appeals to authorities in Tajikistan:

- calling on them to clarify the whereabouts of Rizoali Ojiyev, and, if he is in detention, to release him immediately if he is not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- calling for a thorough examination of whether law enforcement officials involved in the brief detention of Rizoali Ojiyev on 28 February have any connection to his subsequent "disappearance".

1) The Procurator General of Tajikistan, Salomiddin Sharopov

Respublika Tajikistan
734022 g. Dushanbe
prospekt A. Sino, 126
Prokuratura Respubliki Tajikistan
Generalnomu prokuroru SHAROPOVU S.
TAJIKISTAN

Telegrams: Generalnomu prokuroru Sharopovu, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Salutation: Dear Procurator General

2) The Minister of Internal Affairs, Khumdin Khasanovich Sharifov

Respublika Tajikistan
g. Dushanbe

ul. Dzherzhinskogo, 29
Ministerstvo vnutrennikh del
Respubliki Tajikistan
Ministru SHARIFOVU Kh.Kh.
TAJIKISTAN

Telegrams: Ministru vnutrennikh del Sharifovu, Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Salutation: Dear Minister

3) The Minister of Security, Major-General Saydamir Zukhurov
Respublika Tajikistan
g. Dushanbe
Ministerstvo bezopasnosti
Respubliki Tajikistan
Ministru ZUKHUROVU S.
TAJIKISTAN

Telegrams: Ministru bezopasnosti Zukhurovu, Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

The Foreign Minister of Tajikistan, Talbak Nazarovich Nazarov
Respublika Tajikistan
734051 g. Dushanbe
Ministerstvo inostrannykh del
Ministru NAZAROVU T.
Fax: +7 3772-23 29 64; +7 3772-21 02 59

and to diplomatic representatives of Tajikistan accredited to your country.

2. APPEALS To authorities in Uzbekistan:

- calling on them to disclose whether they have any knowledge of the whereabouts of Rizoali Ojiyev, a citizen of Tajikistan, and, if he is in detention in Uzbekistan, to release him immediately if he is not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

1) The Procurator General of Uzbekistan, Buritosh Mustafoev
Respublika Uzbekistan
700000 Tashkent
ul.Gogolya, 66
Prokuratura Respubliki Uzbekistan
Generalnomu prokuroru MUSTAFOYEVU B.

Telegrams: Generalnomu prokuroru Mustafoevu, 700000 Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Salutation: Dear Procurator General

COPIES TO:

The Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, Abdulaziz Komilov
Respublika Uzbekistan
700029 Tashkent
pl. Mustakillik, 5
Ministerstvo inostrannykh del
Ministru KOMILOVU A.Kh.

Fax: +7 3712-39 41 58; +7 3712-39 43 48; +7 3712-39 15 45; +7 3712 39 15 17

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 28 May 1997.