

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 12/94 Fear of imminent execution

14 January 1994

UZBEKISTAN: Shukhrat YULDASHEV (aged 23)
(in cyrillic _____)

Amnesty International fears that Shukhrat Yuldashev faces imminent execution after having been sentenced to death in the former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan.

An appeal against his sentence has been turned down by the Supreme Court, and his only hope of avoiding execution now is a petition for clemency which he has submitted to the President of Uzbekistan.

Amnesty International has only just learned that Shukhrat Yuldashev was sentenced to death for murder by the City Court of Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, in November 1991. The Supreme Court turned down his appeal in June 1992. A decision on his petition for clemency may be made very soon.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan retains the death penalty for 19 peacetime offences. However, senior officials told an Amnesty International delegation which visited Uzbekistan in April 1992, that regulations introduced in December 1991 reduced the number of offences which in practice still carry the death penalty to four: treason; murder under aggravating circumstances; murder of a minor; and aggravated rape. Execution is by shooting. The Minister of Justice told Amnesty International that the use of the death penalty in Uzbekistan was declining, but he was unable to provide the delegation with statistics.

Amnesty International has consistently pressed the Uzbek authorities to reduce the scope of the death penalty as a step towards total abolition; to impose a moratorium on death sentences and executions pending a review of this punishment; and to publish comprehensive statistics on the application of the death penalty.

Amnesty International currently knows, from unofficial sources, of three other pending death sentences in Uzbekistan besides Shukhrat Yuldashev.

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

- expressing concern that Shukhrat Yuldashev has been sentenced to death in Uzbekistan;

- urging President Islam Karimov to grant clemency to Shukhrat Yuldashev, and to commute the death sentence;

- urging President Karimov to commute all other death sentences that come before him.

APPEALS TO:

The President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov:
Respublika Uzbekistan
g. Tashkent

pl. Mustakillik
Apparat prezidenta
Prezidentu Karimovu I.

Telegrams:Uzbekistan, Tashkent, apparat prezidenta, Prezidentu Karimovu I.

Faxes:+ 7 3712 39 55 25 or + 7 3712 39 54 00

Salutation:Dear President Karimov

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Chairman of the Clemency Commission of the Uzbekistan Supreme Soviet, Pulatov (first name unknown):

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

Verkhovny Sovet Respubliki Uzbekistan

Komissiya po voprosam pomilovaniya

Predsedatelyu Pulatovu

2) Chairman of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan, Ubaydulla Mingbayev:

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

ul. Kodiri, 1

Verkhovny Sud Respubliki Uzbekistan

Predsedatelyu Mingbayevu U.

3) Procurator General of Uzbekistan, Buritosh Mustafoyev:

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

ul. Gogolya, 66

Prokuratura Respubliki Uzbekistan

Generalnomu Prokuroru Mustafoyevu B.

4) Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, Saidmukhtar Saidkasymov

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

Ministerstvo inostrannykh del

Ministru Saidkasymovu S.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 25 February 1994.