

PUBLIC

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UA 129/03 Death penalty/ Fear of imminent execution

UZBEKISTAN Abror Isaev (m), aged 19
 Nodirbek Karimov (m), aged 22
 Muzaffar Mirzaev (m), aged 29

Amnesty International has received information that Abror Isaev, Nodirbek Karimov and Muzaffar Mirzaev have been sentenced to death for murder and may face imminent execution.

Abror Isaev and Nodirbek Karimov were sentenced to death on 23 December 2002 by Tashkent Regional Court. The sentence was upheld by the court of appeals of Tashkent region. Amnesty International received reports that Abror Isaev was ill-treated in the death chambers of Tashkent prison. Following this he reportedly tried to commit suicide. According to his mother, who went to see him in prison in early April, he had marks on his neck from a rope and he allegedly had a mental breakdown following the suicide attempt.

Muzaffar Mirzaev was sentenced on 26 September 2002 by Tashkent City court. The sentence was later upheld by the court of appeals of Tashkent city. The family has appealed to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights, the Supreme Court and the President of Uzbekistan to commute the sentence to one of imprisonment, but all their appeals have been rejected so far and the sentence has been upheld. Muzaffar Mirzaev is presently on death row in Tashkent prison and could be executed at any time.

Rustam Mirzaev, who was Muzaffar's father, committed suicide after his son was sentenced. Muzaffar's mother, Khalida Mirzaeva, has written to Amnesty International in the hope that the organization can help obtain clemency for her son.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Despite Uzbekistan's commitment under Article 17.8 of the 1990 Copenhagen Document which obliges participating states of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to "make available to the public information regarding the use of the death penalty", the authorities continued to treat information about the practice of the death penalty as a state secret and have failed to publish comprehensive statistics on this issue. Amnesty International therefore does not have exact figures about death sentences and the number of executions. It has however learned of at least 11 executions in Uzbekistan in 2002, although it believes that the true figure is much higher.

In all cases that came to Amnesty International's attention, prisoners were executed in secret. Their families were often only informed months later; they were not informed about the place of the execution and were not told where their relative was buried. As a result, the families were subjected to a form of mental cruelty that may amount to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment prohibited under international law

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, Russian, Uzbek or your own language:

- expressing sympathy for the victims of crime, but pointing out that the death penalty has never been shown to deter crime more effectively than other forms of punishment;
- stating that you oppose the death penalty under any circumstances as it violates the most fundamental human right, the right to life;
- urging President Karimov to grant clemency to Abror Isaev, Nodirbek Karimov and Muzaffar Mirzaev.

APPEALS TO:President of Uzbekistan

Islam Abduganiyevich KARIMOV

Respublika Uzbekistan; 700163 g. Tashkent; ul. Uzbekistanskaya, 43; Rezidentsia prezidenta; Prezidentu RU; KARIMOVU I.A., UZBEKISTAN

Telegrams: Prezidentu Karimovu, 700163 Tashkent, Uzbekistan**Fax: + 998 71 2 89 00 46 (Write on the top of your fax: "Tel.: 139 53 75; 139 82 60; 139 59 29; Prezidentu RU; KARIMOVU I.A.")****E mails: presidents_office@press-service.uz (if your e mail bounces back, please fax it if possible)****Salutation: Dear President Karimov****COPIES TO:**Minister of Foreign Affairs

Abdulaziz Khafizovich KOMILOV

Respublika Uzbekistan; 700029 g. Tashkent; pl. Mustakillik, 5; Ministerstvo inostrannykh del RU; Ministru KOMILOVU A.Kh., UZBEKISTAN

Telegrams: Ministru inostrannykh del, Tashkent, Uzbekistan**Fax: + 998 71 139 15 17****Salutation: Dear Minister**Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights

Sayora RASHIDOVA

Respublika Uzbekistan; 700035 g. Tashkent; ul. Xalqlar Dostligi, 1; Oliy Majlis RU; Upolnomochennoy po pravam cheloveka pri Oliy Majlis; RASHIDOVVOY S., UZBEKISTAN

E mail: ombudsman@uzpak.uz / office@ombudsman.gov.uz**Salutation: Dear Ms Rashidova**

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 20 June 2003.