



SILK ROUTE HUMAN RIGHTS CARAVAN

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Take action to carry human rights along the silk route in Central Asia!

Turkmenistan Helsinki Foundation



Ogulsapar Muradova
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Annakurban Amanklychev
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Amnesty International calls for the release of prisoners of conscience Annakurban Amanklychev and Sapardurdy Khadzhev who have been in prison for nearly four years. Amnesty International believes that the charges against both human rights defenders have been fabricated to silence their activities and considers them to be prisoners of conscience.

They were sentenced in August 2006 to seven years' imprisonment, charged with "illegal acquisition, possession or sale of ammunition or firearms" following an unfair trial. Human rights defender Ogulsapar Muradova, journalist of *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*, was detained along with them and sentenced in the same trial to six years' imprisonment. She died in custody in September 2006 in disputed circumstances. All three were associated with the non-governmental organization *Turkmenistan Helsinki Foundation*.

We are calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Annakurban Amanklychev and Sapardurdy Khadzhev and for an independent investigation to be opened into the death in custody of Ogulsapar Muradova.

Write to President Berdymukhammedov calling on him to:

- immediately and unconditionally release prisoners of conscience Annakurban Amanklychev and Sapardurdy Khadzhev who have been detained for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression in defence of human rights;
- immediately conduct a thorough and independent investigation into the death in custody of Ogulsapar Muradova, keep her relatives informed of all steps of the investigation and make the results public.

Send or fax your appeal to:

President Berdymukhammedov

Presidential Palace

744000 Ashgabat

Turkmenistan

Fax + 993 12 35 51 12



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Isroil Kholdorov, Uzbekistan



Isroil Kholdorov ©Private

Human rights defender and prisoner of conscience Isroil Kholdorov has been in prison for nearly four years after an unfair trial on 20 February 2007. Prior to his arrest, he was the chairperson of the Andizhan Regional Department of the banned Erk secular opposition party in Uzbekistan.

Isroil Kholdorov had left Uzbekistan for neighbouring Kyrgyzstan following the May 2005 Andizhan events, after hundreds of protesters were killed when security forces fired on a large crowd of mainly peaceful demonstrators gathered in the centre of the city. He spoke to international media about mass graves secretly organized by the authorities and arranged an unauthorized demonstration in the border town of Kara-Suu in Kyrgyzstan on the anniversary of the Andizhan events in 2006.

It is not clear whether he returned to Uzbekistan voluntarily or whether he was abducted by Uzbekistani security forces, but he was eventually detained in Uzbekistan in September 2006 and sentenced to six years' imprisonment. He was charged with various offences against the state like attempting to overthrow the constitutional order. All appeals against his sentence were turned down in 2007. Amnesty International believes that the charges were brought by the authorities in order to punish him for his peaceful political opposition and human rights activities.

Write to President Islam Karimov calling on him to:

- immediately and unconditionally release prisoner of conscience Isroil Kholdorov who has been convicted for the peaceful exercise of his rights to freedom of expression and association;
- ensure that everyone can peacefully exercise their right to freedom of expression in conformity with Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Uzbekistan is a state party.

Send or fax your appeal to:

President Islam Karimov
Rezidentsia prezidenta
Ul. Uzbekistanskaia, 43
Tashkent 700163
UZBEKISTAN
Fax + 998 71 139 53 25



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