

EXTERNAL

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EXTRA 04/97

Fear of imminent execution

16 January 1997

UZBEKISTAN Jahongir Gofurov

G. Kim

Yodgor Toshpulatov

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Amnesty International fears that Jahongir Gofurov, G. Kim and Yodgor Toshpulatov face imminent execution after having been sentenced to death in the former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan. All three are known to have had appeals against their sentences turned down by the Supreme Court. Their only hope of avoiding execution now is a petition for clemency to the President of Uzbekistan.

The three men were sentenced to death in two separate trials. Specific information about the cases is scarce, but the available details are as follows.

Jahongir Gofurov and G. Kim stood trial together and were sentenced to death by Tashkent City Court in 1996 after being found guilty of premeditated, aggravated murder. The Supreme Court of Uzbekistan upheld the death sentences in 1996 (exact date not known). Jahongir Gofurov and G. Kim, together with a female co-defendant named as Mamadalieva, stand accused of killing a female acquaintance of Mamadalieva in order to rob her. G. Kim is reported to have dealt the fatal blow to the victim. Mamadalieva was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment. Jahongir Gofurov has previous convictions for theft and drug-related crimes.

Yodgor Toshpulatov was sentenced to death for premeditated, aggravated murder, probably in 1996, by Tashkent City Court. The sentence has been upheld by the Supreme Court (exact date not known). He was accused of having been the ringleader of a criminal gang, and other defendants in the case received long prison sentences. Yodgor Toshpulatov, who has previous convictions, was also charged with illegal possession of weapons and drug trafficking.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

A new criminal code introduced in Uzbekistan in 1995 retains the death penalty for 13 offences. The Uzbekistani authorities do not disclose statistics on their application of the death penalty, but unofficial sources continue to allege a very high number of executions. Most recently human rights monitors in Uzbekistan have claimed that at least one execution a week takes place at the main prison in the capital, Tashkent.

Amnesty International has consistently pressed the Uzbekistani 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.

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

- urging the President of Uzbekistan to use his constitutional authority to commute the death sentences passed on Jahongir Gofurov, G. Kim and Yodgor Toshpulatov, and all other death sentences that come before him;
- expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

- expressing sympathy for the victims of crime and their families, but pointing out that the death penalty has never been shown to deter crime more effectively than other punishments, and is brutalizing to all those involved in its application.

**APPEALS TO:**

The President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov:

Respublika Uzbekistan

700000 g. Tashkent

pr. Uzbekistansky

Rezidentsiya Prezidenta

Prezidentu Karimovu I.A.

**Telegrams:Uzbekistan, 700000 Tashkent, Prezidentu Karimovu I.**

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

**Salutation:Dear President Karimov**

**COPIES TO:**

Head of the Clemency Department at the President's Office, Nurmat Akhmanov:

Respublika Uzbekistan

700000 g. Tashkent

Apparat Prezidenta

Otdel po voprosam pomilovaniya

Zaveduyuchshemu otdelom Akhmanovu

Oliy Majlis (Parliamentary) Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Sayora Rashidova:

Respublika Uzbekistan

700008 g. Tashkent

pl. Mustakillik

Oliy Majlis Respubliki Uzbekistan

Upolnomochennomu po pravam cheloveka pri Oliy Majlis

Rashidovoy S.

**Fax: (c/o the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) +7 3712 39 41 58**

Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, Abdulaziz Komilov

Respublika Uzbekistan

700029 g. Tashkent

pl. Mustakillik, 5

Ministerstvo inostrannykh del

Ministru Komilovu A.

**Fax: +7 3712 39 41 58 or 39 15 17 or 39 43 48**

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 13 February 1997.