

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 62/006/2005

11 May 2005

UA 118/05      Fear of imminent execution/torture/ill-treatment

UZBEKISTAN      Nazirzhan Azizov (m), born 1972  
                     Khurshidbek Salaidinov (m), born 1984  
                     Bakhtiorzhan Tuichiev (m), born 1974

---

The three young men named above are believed to be in imminent danger of execution. They were reportedly tortured to force them to confess to murder, and sentenced to death in October 2004. Mass appeals now could save their lives.

The three men are on death row in Andizhan prison, in the far east of Uzbekistan. Their parents have not been allowed to visit them since January. When families are denied meetings with death row prisoners it often indicates that the execution has taken place already, or is about to take place.

They were convicted of two murders by Andizhan Regional Court, in a trial that reportedly fell far short of international standards: all three alleged in court that they had been tortured to make them sign confessions to the murders, but the court failed to investigate their claims. All three men's appeals against their death sentences were rejected by the same court in December and again in February.

The families of Bakhtiorzhan Tuichiev and Khurshidbek Salaidinov claimed that they had been beaten so badly in custody that they were unable to move for several weeks. They were not allowed to meet with lawyers hired by their families, and were only able to meet with a state-appointed lawyer after they had been in custody for a month.

In January the UN Human Rights Committee urged the Uzbek authorities to stay the executions of the three men, while it establishes whether provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) were violated in their cases. However, on 21 March the Uzbek authorities gave a written assurance to the UN Human Rights Committee that another death row prisoner, Akhrorkhuzha Tolipkhuzhaev was still alive. It later emerged that he had been executed on 1 March. Akhrorkhuzha Tolipkhuzhaev, had not been the subject of mass appeals, such as those from the UA network, and this appears to have been a key factor in his execution.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Uzbekistan has ratified the first Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, and has therefore committed itself to follow the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Committee, including requests for stays of execution. However, by May 2005, the authorities had executed at least 15 death row prisoners on whose behalf the UN Human Rights Committee had intervened.

President Islam Karimov stated on 2 December 2004 that between 50 and 60 people had been sentenced to death that year. However, in violation of Uzbekistan's international obligations, the country has never published comprehensive statistics on the numbers of death sentences and executions.

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

- urging the authorities to abide by the UN Human Rights Committee's request to stay the executions of Nazirzhan Azizov, Khurshidbek Salaidinov and Bakhtiorzhan Tuichiev while their cases are being considered, and thereby honour Uzbekistan's obligation as a party to the Optional Protocol to the ICCPR;

- urging the President to commute the death sentences passed on Nazirzhan Azizov, Khurshidbek Salaidinov and Bakhtiorzhan Tuichiev, and all other death sentences that come before him;
- calling on the authorities to investigate thoroughly and impartially allegations that Khurshidbek Salaidinov and Bakhtiorzhan Tuichiev were tortured and ill-treated in pre-trial detention, and bring to justice anyone found responsible;
- expressing your unconditional opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the most fundamental of human rights, the right to life, and calling on the authorities to promptly introduce a moratorium on death sentences and executions.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

##### President

Islam A. KARIMOV,

Rezidentsia prezidenta; ul. Uzbekistanskaia, 43; Tashkent 700163; UZBEKISTAN

**Fax:** +998 71 139 15 17 (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Please mark: "for the attention of President Karimov")

**Email:** presidents\_office@press-service.uz

**Salutation:** Dear President Karimov

##### Minister of Internal Affairs

Zakirzhan ALMATOV

Ministerstvo vnutrennikh del RU, ul. Novruz, 1; Tashkent 700029; UZBEKISTAN

**Fax:** + 998 71 133 89 34

**Salutation:** Dear Minister Almatov

##### Head of the National Centre for Human Rights,

Akmal Saidov

Natsionalny tsentr po pravam cheloveka,

5/3, Mustakillik Maidoni,

g. Tashkent

Respublika Uzbekistan

700029

**Fax:** + 998 71 139 13 56

+ 998 71 139 45 16

**E-mail:** office@nchr.uz

**Salutation:** Dear Senator Saidov

#### **COPIES TO:**

##### Minister of Foreign Affairs

Eler GANIEV

Ministerstvo inostrannykh del RU; pl. Mustakillik, 5; Tashkent 700029; UZBEKISTAN

**Fax:** + 998 71 139 15 17

**Email:** letter@mfa.uz

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 22 June 2005.